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MARRIAGES.

On the 30th ult., at the Jewish Synagogue, Hongkong, by the Rev. M. M. Sateehon, S. E. MARCUS, to MARY, elder daughter of Mrs. M. Marcus. [242]
On the 20th of December, 1894, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., E. B. SKOTTOWE, Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, to KATE, eldest daughter of J. HENNINGSEN, Esq., Manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company.
On the 26th of December, 1894, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., GEORGE PEACE, to JANET A. CARTER.

DEATHS.

Died, at his residence, "Idlewild," on Christmas day, CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH RAPP, aged 54 years. [2387]
On December 14th, at 7 p.m., at Yokohama, Mr. LOUIS SAMIE, Secrétaire Archiviste du Consulat de France.
At No. 3, Minghong Road, Hongkew, Shanghai, at 1 a.m. on the 27th of December, 1894, ELIZA SAYLE, aged 45 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 23rd November arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 27th December (34 days); the American mail of the 4th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Oceanic*, on the 2nd January (29 days); the English mail of the 30th November arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Sutlej*, on the 2nd January (33 days); and the Canadian mail of the 11th December arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 2nd January (22 days).

The rates of subscription to the *Hongkong Weekly Press* are \$12 yearly, \$7 half-yearly, and \$4 quarterly, payable in advance; the credit rates are \$13.50, \$8, and \$4.50 respectively. Postage \$2 per annum additional.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Deakin Brothers, Limited, of Yokohama, have decided to go into liquidation.

A Reuter's telegram states that M. de Lanessan, the Governor of Indo-China, has been recalled for divulging the contents of official documents to the press. M. Rousseau, an official of the colonial department, succeeds to the post.

M. Maurice Dejean de la Batie has been appointed Consul for France at Mengtsan.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong High-Level Tramways Co., Limited, was held on the 29th ult., when the report and accounts were adopted.

It is said that the French cruiser *Iely*, which came out to join the China squadron the other day, will form one of the ships of the Madagascar expedition.

The railway from Phu-lang-thuong to Langson has now been completed and the opening of the through service was to be celebrated on the 24th inst., the inauguration ceremony being conducted by the Governor-General, M. de Lanessan.

The recent decision of some mill-owners to export their products to Hongkong in spite of certain loss at the outset has come to nothing, says an Osaka paper. No one is exporting yarn to the British colony for the very good reason presumably that practically the whole of their present stock is contracted for already, and their output for some time to come will be in fulfilment of orders already booked.

On the 22nd inst., as Bishop Gondreau was on his way to attend the opening of a new hospital at Hanpi he was shot at by a M. Peretti, who used a rifle, but fortunately missed his aim, though the bullet passed through the jinricksha in which the Bishop was riding. The assailant was taking aim a second time when the rifle was struck out of his hand by a bystander. It is believed that M. Peretti, who is an old resident, had become insane.

The Amoy Chamber of Commerce has inserted the following advertisement in the *Amoy Gazette* in English and Chinese:—" \$50 Reward.—With reference to the vague and unauthoritative rumours of plague in Amoy, the Chamber of Commerce hereby offers the above reward to any person who shall bring to the notice and diagnosis of any European qualified medical practitioner a case of bubonic plague contracted in Amoy.—Amoy, 22nd December, 1894."

It is reported, says the *Singapore Free Press*, that there be great troubles in Manila. Serious defalcations have been discovered in the Treasury, the sum of money missing being stated to be no less than \$800,000. The president, the secretary, and the cashier to the Treasury have been placed under arrest. It is also reported that the Spanish officers of the *Mindanao*, having a considerable amount of money in hand, deposited it with a foreign trader; he and the \$90,000 are now missing.

The Japanese Diet was opened on the 24th December, by Imperial commission. Count Ito read the Speech from the Throne to the following effect:—"We have instructed the Ministers to present the necessary budget and other important measures. Our expeditionary forces have been victorious in every engagement and are steadily pressing forward into the enemy's territory. We are especially gratified that, despite the bitter cold and other great hardships, the forces are distinguishing themselves with valour and bravery. Our relations with the neutral powers are more friendly than ever. The Revision of the Treaties our long cherished aspiration, has been accomplished with several countries, and negotiations with other countries are making favourable progress. Being placed in such a glorious situation we trust that you, observing things both domestic and Foreign, will work to promote and secure a fitting and peaceful termination to our undertakings and to advance harmony between Government and the people."

Despite the prohibition on the exportation of Chinese goods to Japan, the *Boyei* states that the import of Chinese raw cotton has increased considerably of late, and that Chinese residents in Japan continue to bring in quantities of other goods.

News has been received of an engagement which took place near Haicheng on the 19th December in which the Chinese were defeated. On the Japanese side four regiments of infantry and five batteries of artillery were engaged, and the number of the Chinese troops engaged was estimated at ten thousand. Newchwang has now been occupied by the Japanese.

The following letter from the Rev. G. Owen, of Peking, to the Rev. Dr. Muirhead, of Shanghai, has been published:—"I told you in my last letter that the Empress Dowager had requested to know the names of the subscribers to the birthday gift. Dr. Lowry and I could not supply such a list, so we decided to hand in the names of the ladies' committee, viz., Mrs. Richard and Mrs. Fitch, and a selection of twenty ladies from the several missions, who, according to the lists published in the *Recorder*, stood at the head of the largest number of subscribers. Yesterday Col. Denby received from the Tsungli-Yamen a note saying that the Yamen had received from the Empress Dowager a number of articles for presents to the ladies whose names had been handed in in connection with the presentation New Testament, and begged Col. Denby to forward the same to the ladies mentioned.—To Mrs. Richard and Mrs. Fitch, each:—1 piece of silk, 1 piece of satin, 2 handkerchiefs in case, 1 set of embroidery requisites (watch case, tobacco pouch, &c.) For each of the other twenty ladies:—1 handkerchief in box, 1 piece of crape. The things are in Dr. Lowry's hands, and he will take the earliest opportunity of forwarding the presents to Shanghai, except such as may belong to ladies in the North. These presents are valuable as showing the appreciation and kindly feeling of the Empress Dowager. You will, I am sure, be glad to hear the news, and I hasten to send it."

An extraordinary edict has been kindly furnished us (*N. C. Daily News*) as coming from official circles in Peking. Weng Tung-ho, Li Hung-tsao, and Wen Ting-shih memorialised the Emperor lately, suggesting the removal of the capital westward. In reply the young Emperor is said to have issued an edict the substance of which was this:—"When we first took charge of the affairs of the empire it was our intention to introduce many reforms. Suddenly and unexpectedly the Japanese have broken the peace, taken away our Korean dependency, and taken possession of the borders of our empire. We have sent our generals with their armies to punish the Japanese and drive them away, but we never intended to disturb the peace of the Japanese empire. This our ancestors and foreign nations all know. Little did we expect that the generals were incompetent and the soldiers insubordinate, so that the Japanese gained victory after victory and place after place, till our ancestors in their very graves are disturbed. This is because we are unworthy and have employed unfit men. If, however, the worst come and the Japanese get the sacred altars, then there remains nothing for us but to perish with them. When that time comes may you reverently escort the Empress Dowager westward and elect a worthy son to be the Emperor and to look after the sacred altars of our ancestors and wipe off this disgrace." It appears that this edict was issued to those within precincts nearly a month ago, but has not been known outside.

1894.

Eighteen hundred and ninety-four will be known in local history as the year of the plague. Never before has the colony experienced such a year of misfortunes. Were it not that the fearful epidemic which raged from May to August so greatly overshadows all our other troubles we might speak of plagues in the plural, and the chronicler might even be tempted to compare our unhappy condition with that of the ancient Egyptians in the time of Moses. We have had rinderpest and pleuropneumonia amongst the cattle of the island, a plague of caterpillars that would have destroyed the pine forests had not energetic steps been taken to destroy the pest, a water famine, the bubonic plague, five gales or typhoons within a month, one of them the most severe Hongkong has experienced for twenty years, a war between the two countries with which our commerce is more immediately connected, and, finally, a continuance of the exchange trouble. There is little in the record of the year to afford satisfaction and much to cause grief and distress. Yet it is significant of the vitality of the colony and the sound basis on which its trade rests that it has suffered so little permanent injury from its misfortunes but continues to grow and prosper in spite of all.

It was on the 10th May that the proclamation was published declaring the colony to be infected with plague. Prompt steps were taken by the Sanitary Board to combat the visitation, but the mortality steadily increased. A prolonged drought had prevailed, which was supposed to be the cause of the plague, and it was hoped that when the rains came the disease would abate. But the rains came and instead of abating the epidemic increased in virulence until on the 7th June it reached high-water mark, when the deaths during one day numbered a hundred and seven. After that date there was a gradual diminution, but it was not until the 3rd September that the proclamation was revoked and the port declared clean. The total ascertained mortality was a little over 2,500, but there were doubtless a good many deaths that escaped official record. At Canton, where practically no sanitary precautions were taken, the plague died out about the same time as in Hongkong. It cannot therefore be claimed that the disease was stamped out here, for, under any circumstances, it would no doubt have died out at the same time that it did in Canton; it simply ran its course and disappeared. But though the efforts of those engaged in combating the plague did not succeed in stamping it out before it had run its course they did succeed in limiting the mortality and saving an immense number of lives. At Canton, the mortality from the plague was one in ten; at Hongkong, making the most liberal allowance for departures from the colony, it did not exceed two-and-a-half per cent. The difference may fairly be credited to the energetic measures taken in this colony when the plague was upon us, for the normal conditions under which the people lived were even more favourable to the spread of the disease than at Canton, the latter city having nothing to show like the Taiping-shan plague nest either in respect of the amount of overcrowding or the absence of light and ventilation in the noisome basements excavated out of the hillside. To the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board, the civilians and members of the Garrison who volunteered their services in connection with the house to house visitation and cleansing operations, to the medical staff, and to the ladies who acted as nurses to the plague

patients the thanks of the community have been formally expressed, and their heroism and noble exertions will long be held in grateful remembrance. The colony is now doing its best, according to its lights, to set its house in order, to "ring out old shapes of foul disease," and to introduce a rational system of sanitation, to prevent overcrowding and the occupation of dwellings unfit for habitation. With this end in view a large area in Taipingshan densely built over has been resumed by the Crown and an Ordinance has been passed bringing under effective control insanitary dwellings in other parts of the colony. So far so good, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the measures taken may be effective in preventing any recurrence of the plague or other filth diseases. It is understood that an amended Public Health Bill will be introduced ere long dealing with the subject on broader lines than the special legislation recently passed under emergency and a Medical Committee has been appointed to report on the organization of the medical and sanitary staff. The Governor, while expressing his belief that it is impossible to make people clean by Act of Parliament, has intimated his opinion that it might be done by an official with plenary powers, provided the Sanitary Board (to which body the colony is indebted for whatever measure of sanitation it may already possess) were swept out of the way. The best new year wish we can express for the colony is that a merciful Providence may protect it from any folly of that kind. If the new born zeal for sanitation is to be permanently effective the sympathy and co-operation of the community must be invited, not alienated. The colony must be allowed to manage its own health affairs and not have any further official incubus hang round its neck to obstruct its progress in the right path.

The next subject that claims attention in a review of the year is the war between China and Japan. Hopes are entertained that as a consequence of the war the commercial development of this colony will receive a considerable impetus. After the war of 1857-60 it was believed that China was on the point of being opened up, and again after the Franco-Chinese war about Tonkin was concluded it was believed that the country had received such an awakening as would lead to great things commercially, politically, and socially. In both cases the hopes were disappointed. After the crisis was past the country sank back into its former state of slothful somnolence, official corruption went on as before, no efforts were made to promote trade or improve the position of the people, and when the present war broke out the country was found to be even weaker and its administration if possible more corrupt than at any previous period. The consequence was that no real resistance was offered to the Japanese and the Peking Government is now abjectly suing for peace. The history of the war may be briefly stated. In the early part of the year a rebellion broke out in Korea and the Government of that country made an appeal to China for assistance in its suppression. The appeal was assented to and in accordance with the agreement between China and Japan in reference to Korea notice was given to Japan of China's intention to send troops. Japan also decided to send troops and early in June there were both Chinese and Japanese forces in the country. Japan, recognising that order could not be permanently re-established without a reform of the administration, invited China to join in the work of reform. China declined, whereupon Japan assumed the entire responsibility herself and gave notice to China that any further despatch of Chinese troops would be construed into an unfriendly act intended to

obstruct Japan in the work she had undertaken. China, however, paid no attention to the warning and on the 25th July the chartered transport *Kowshing*, conveying Chinese troops to Korea, was sunk by a Japanese man-of-war, after the soldiers had refused to surrender. On the same day a naval engagement took place in which the Chinese vessel *Chuyuen* ran away, the despatch boat *Taokiang* was captured, and the *Kwong-yi* was driven ashore. On the 29th of the same month the Chinese vanguard was defeated near Yashan, and on the 1st August both Powers formally declared war. Since then the Japanese have steadily advanced until nearly the whole of Manchuria is now in their hands, Port Arthur, the great naval stronghold, having fallen to them on the 21st November. On the 17th September a naval battle took place off the mouth of the Yalu, in which the Chinese lost five vessels while the Japanese lost none. With her fleet crippled, Port Arthur in the hands of the enemy, and the inferiority of her troops so conspicuously proved, China is now anxious to make the best terms she can, in which she is being assisted by the friendly offices of the United States, one of whose statesmen has just left Washington for Tokyo to advise the Chinese Ambassadors. The general opinion is that the war is now practically over, and the question of present moment is, what is to be its result. Will it leave China, after payment of an indemnity, as she was before, or will it lead to the opening up of the country? That depends upon the terms of the treaty; there will be no voluntary opening up of China, but only so much as is forced upon her; and it would be well not to be too sanguine concerning the result of the war from a commercial point of view. While on abstract grounds satisfaction ought perhaps to be felt that the new year opens with prospects of peace some element of regret may nevertheless obtrude itself that the lesson inflicted on China has not been severe enough to lead to a radical reform of the administration.

In the field of our local politics, owing to the visitation of the plague, questions of sanitation have necessarily occupied the first place, but other important matters have also claimed attention. The coinage of a British dollar has at last been sanctioned and the new coin is expected to be in circulation within a few weeks. The currency of the colony will thus be placed on a stable and rational basis and rendered independent of the continual fluctuations in the value of the Mexican dollar. There are few benefits without attendant disadvantages and to many, especially the salaried classes, the slight depreciation in exchange caused by the loss of the premium at which the Mexican has for some time past stood will be regarded as a matter of regret, but in its general effect on trade the introduction of the new coin will be of undeniable utility. Another question that has engaged attention is that of retrenchment in the cost of governing the colony. A committee was appointed in March to consider this subject and in September the report of the committee was made public. It was to the effect that if all the committee's recommendations were carried out the cost of governing the colony would only be reduced by \$79,000, while on the other hand they suggested the granting of exchange compensation to the amount of \$125,000, making as the net result an increase in the expenditure of \$46,000 a year. In November \$80,000 was actually voted by the Legislative Council for exchange compensation for the year 1894, the unofficial members concurring in the vote. While the estimates were being prepared a series of

private meetings of the Legislative Council were held, which caused some adverse comment, and the course is one which it is to be hoped will not be repeated, for it is calculated to give rise to unpleasant comment and to weaken the confidence entertained by the public in their unofficial representatives. Had the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD not been absent from the colony probably the Government would have found the unofficial element less complacent. Mr. WHITEHEAD left for a holiday at the end of May and the Chamber of Commerce elected Mr. A. McCONACHIE to fill his place during his absence. The only other change to be specially noted in the Legislative Council is the departure in April of the Hon. G. T. M. O'BRIEN, Colonial Secretary, whose place has since been filled *pro tem.* by the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART. A matter of some military and political importance which should not be passed over without notice in a review of the year is the laying of a telegraph cable between Singapore and Hongkong via Labuan, thus establishing a line of communication not touching at any foreign territory, as does the older cable.

During the year just closed the *Centurion* has replaced the *Imperieuse* as flag ship on the China station, and in view of the situation created by the China-Japan war the fleet has been largely augmented. At one time it seemed as though there might be some work for it to do. A gross outrage had been committed at Tientsin on the British steamer *Chungking*, a number of her passengers being taken from on board and subjected to ill-treatment. Reparation was demanded and finally, after considerable delay, the British flag was formally saluted by the Chinese forts. Had this satisfaction not been given the intention was that reprisals should be taken against China. Another change to be noted is the arrival of the Rifle Brigade to relieve the Shropshires, who left less than a fortnight ago, carrying with them the best wishes of the community.

The commercial situation has not shown much improvement during the year, though a somewhat more hopeful feeling has of late been apparent. It is generally believed that exchange has about touched bottom, that fluctuations in the immediate future will be confined within narrow limits, that the capital withdrawn during the rapid fall of silver will begin to flow back, and that some relief from the monetary stringency which has so long prevailed in the Far East may shortly be expected. We hope these anticipations may be fulfilled and that 1895 may be free from the disasters which have marked its predecessor. We cordially wish our readers a

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

THE WAR AND ITS RESULTS.

While deprecating attempts like that of Mr. DEMETRIUS BOULGER to bolster up the reputation and exaggerate the power of China, in common with all friends of the ancient empire we welcome any discussion that will throw the search-light of truth upon her real position, in the confident belief that no cure for the ills that afflict her can be found until the causes of decay are exposed. It is no kindness either to China or her rulers to attempt to show that because of her bulk and population she is therefore impregnable to attack, or to affect a belief that her government will, unasked and without pressure, inaugurate reforms and institute improvements that must soon place her abreast of civilised Powers. Sir THOMAS WADE, who has ever been a consistent and, we may add, most long-suffering friend of

the Chinese, cherishes no such delusions. He is incomparably better qualified to speak on the subject than Mr. BOULGER, and yet he does so with far more diffidence, alleging first, his want of personal knowledge of the Japanese, and, secondly, the length of his absence (some twelve years) from the Far East. But Sir THOMAS WADE possesses a remarkably clear insight and has followed the course of events in China and Japan with unflagging zest and interest, and though removed from the diplomatic arena and separated from the scene of his past labours by nearly twelve thousand miles he is still thoroughly well posted and perfectly competent to deliver a most valuable opinion on the present position and the future prospects of the war. The question of China's unlimited supply of material for soldiers and consequent strength is very effectively disposed of by the British ex-Minister to China. His military experience enables him to set that argument speedily aside. After referring to the ease with which the Chinese forces were routed and dispersed by the Anglo-French expedition in 1860, he says:—"An army of 100,000 Chinese, imperfectly disciplined, with inexperienced officers, badly organised commissariat, and weapons in part obsolete, will be only the more surely conquered because of their numbers." As Sir THOMAS remarks, it is not a question of numbers but of science; and the Japanese recognised that fact most fully, we believe, before they embarked upon what is, and must then have seemed, a very serious and arduous undertaking. There has been, in spite of the gradual accumulation of arms and the strengthening of fortresses, no genuine progress in military matters in China. The army has consisted of skeleton battalions, imperfectly equipped, almost wholly undisciplined, and, worst of all, destitute of competent officers. All this, however, has been so amply proved during the course of the hostilities, that it is needless to recapitulate facts so generally acknowledged even for the enlightenment of Mr. BOULGER, Captain LANG, Lord WOLSELEY, and other misguided and self-deluded persons.

What is of more general interest at the present moment is what will be the outcome of this war. An impression is current among many persons just now that the end of the struggle has practically been reached. China has sent two Ambassadors to Tokyo on a mission to negotiate the terms of peace, and Japan, it is reported, has expressed a readiness to abate some of her demands. We would ask our readers not to rely on these reports. It is true that the Chinese Government have taken a first step towards negotiating for peace, but between that initial proceeding and the conclusion of a treaty there is room for much to happen. Our belief is that peace is more likely to be concluded as the result of the Japanese occupation of Peking than from negotiations by Chinese emissaries in Japan. Of course it is easy to understand that the Chinese Government are eager to stay the advance of the Japanese armies and are willing to pay a large indemnity to avert the occupation of their capital by the invaders. This would enable China to save a great loss of face and the mandarins would be able to make it appear to the mass of the Chinese people that the Japanese were very glad to be allowed to depart without farther loss, most of their victories having been circulated among the natives as disastrous defeats. Moreover it is not unlikely that, following past precedents, they would endeavour to repudiate part of the terms subsequently, as they did the treaty negotiated by CHUNG HOW with Russia in reference to the Kuldja. But the Japanese are

familiar with Chinese ways and are well aware that treachery and deceit are not accounted crimes in diplomacy. They will therefore demand such ample guarantees for the fulfilment of the terms of the treaty of peace as may stagger the craftiest of Chinese statesmen and lead to such a prolongation of hostilities—for there will be no armistice—as will allow for the occupation of Peking and various other places before it is finally signed. The war may practically be brought to a conclusion by the fall of the capital, but we do not believe that peace will be declared before that event. The Japanese Government will not be satisfied until they have humbled as well as defeated China, not so much because they wish to inflict humiliation upon the country, but because they have to deal with a Power whose pretensions must be lowered before they can come to terms, or, if they come to terms, whose good faith must be secured by the very severity of the lesson taught her. Disastrous as the campaign has been to Chinese arms, so far, it has had little effect on the arrogance of her rulers, who instead of being covered with confusion and disgrace only seek to shuffle the blame and responsibility for failure upon ignorant tools. The men primarily responsible for the miserable collapse are still in power, and will apparently be trusted to make terms with the enemy.

In the meantime what may happen? Will a break up of the Chinese Empire, such as Sir THOMAS WADE thinks probable, take place? He is of opinion that, in the not improbable event of the Manchu power being upset, "China will be thrown into very much the same condition as before the Mongol invasion in the thirteenth and the Manchu invasion in the seventeenth century." She will, in short, present much the same phenomena as the peninsula of India did before our conquest, the phenomena of "warring princelings and usurpers, none of them strong enough to obtain the supreme power." If this forecast be correct we are on the verge of great events and stirring times. It may be that China will disintegrate, but we do not believe the Japanese will, as Sir THOMAS WADE is inclined to imagine, ever attempt to impose their rule over their gigantic neighbour. The task would be too vast and has never, we think, been contemplated by Japanese statesmen, though sanguine native journalists in Tokyo may have discussed such a contingency. Should the Manchu dynasty be overthrown before peace is concluded, however, it is probable that Japan would endeavour to retain possession of Manchuria. It is also most likely that the Treaty Powers, seeing trade menaced, would step in and either undertake the temporary administration of the Empire or set up native Governments in different provinces. The speculations of Sir THOMAS WADE as to the ability or otherwise of the Japanese to take the place of the Manchus are therefore perhaps hardly worth discussing seriously. We quite agree with him that the case of the Manchu conquest is not on all fours with that of the Japanese. The former conquered the Chinese by force of arms in the first instance and subsequently retained their supremacy by assimilating themselves to the conquered race. While conquering they were absorbed by the conquered. This could not happen to the Japanese, who have adopted Occidental civilisation to such an extent that they must perforce remain irreconcilable to China. Russia is much more likely to become the inheritor of the Dragon Throne. Both by temperament and by position Russia is better equipped for the work, and in the event of the Chinese failing to

accept the lessons of the past half century and continuing the present system of universal corruption in every department of the administration an opportunity may offer for the extension of Muscovite rule over a great part of the Central Kingdom, or Russia may be drawn into a policy of intervention by force of circumstances. It is true that at the moment Russia gives no sign of any desire to take advantage of China's prostration, but in the event of the northern provinces becoming a prey to disorder and robber bands commencing to give trouble on the Amoor is it reasonable to suppose Russia would continue inactive? As Sir THOMAS WADE points out, her true objective in the Far East is the Yellow Sea and the coasts thereof, and however peaceably disposed the Czar NICHOLAS II. may be, if the poor seeming ripe it would be unnatural for the Bear to refrain from plucking it. But we entertain strong hopes that some better arrangement than a general disruption or violent dismemberment of China will follow the conclusion of the war. The Japanese Government have no desire to precipitate a collapse of the Chinese Empire. It is no part of their policy to see the non-aggressive Chinese Government replaced by a militant power like Russia securely master of the Yellow Sea. If China is in danger of falling into fragments Japan would be only too willing to join the Treaty Powers in a united effort to either set up a new Empire or several Chinese kingdoms. In all probability the old fabric will be maintained though somewhat weakened by the shock it will have sustained.

EXTRADITION OF CHINESE CRIMINALS.

When the Chinese Extradition Ordinance was passed in 1889 hostility to the measure was expressed by the unofficial members and it was by the official vote that the Bill was carried. An idea prevailed that the new law would render it easier for the Chinese authorities to squeeze and terrify the peaceable inhabitants of this colony or men of means who might come here from the Straits Settlements. As the Bill was originally drafted it contained a clause admitting in evidence against persons whose rendition was applied for the depositions taken in Chinese courts. Had that provision been retained the Bill would unquestionably have been a very dangerous measure, for it would have been an easy matter to manufacture documentary evidence and the authorities would not have scrupled to do so whenever they wished to get hold of any man who was thought to be worth squeezing or against whom there was any political grudge. This clause, however, was struck out and as finally passed the measure was unobjectionable. It did not really facilitate rendition, but simply established a regular course of procedure where before nothing but disorder prevailed, and provided certain safeguards in the interest of the accused. There is no reason to suppose that in the cases that have been dealt with under that Ordinance there has been any miscarriage of justice, and the case recently before the courts arising out of the seizure of a junk by Chinese Customs officers, who were alleged to have been assaulted by the crew, shows that the safeguards provided by the law are efficient, the accused being discharged by the Supreme Court. It would seem, however, that in that case the Magistrate made a serious mistake in weighing the evidence and that had the accused not had friends who provided the means to carry their case to the Supreme Court three innocent men might have been gven up. The Acting Chief

Justice in giving his decision said—"There is practically no appeal whatever from the Magistrate's decision. If these men had not had friends with the necessary influence and funds to come forward, they would not have been able to engage counsel and to have brought their case before this Court; and in the same way there is no appeal to the Governor." But practically this applies to all cases brought before the Magistrates, and not to rendition cases only, for it is only when a person is tried for murder that the Crown provides him with legal assistance. In all ordinary cases the man who has no money to engage legal assistance has to be content with the Magistrate's decision, and no doubt occasional instances of miscarriage of justice occur. The fact, however, that a Magistrate in convicting a man under any particular Ordinance takes a wrong view of the evidence is no argument against the law itself, nor does Mr. WODEHOUSE's mistake in the recent Customs seizure case afford any argument against the Extradition Ordinance. How such an experienced and painstaking Magistrate came to make such a mistake is a mystery. It can hardly be supposed that he did not with due care analyse the evidence, and the only alternative supposition is that he took it for granted that if he committed the men for rendition the case would be carried further and that owing to the peculiar circumstances surrounding it he thought it desirable it should receive the additional ventilation an appeal would afford. If that be the true explanation the course taken by Mr. WODEHOUSE must be pronounced a dangerous and unjustifiable one, however good the intention may have been. Leaving speculation aside, however, it is satisfactory to note that under the procedure provided by the Ordinance a miscarriage of justice was avoided.

THE INSANITARY DWELLINGS BILL.

The debate in the Legislative Council on the 22nd ult. on the new Health Bill was one of the most important and interesting that has taken place in that assembly for many years. The time has arrived when it is necessary to deal effectively with the conflicting interests of property owners and of the community generally, for it is imperative that every possible precaution should be taken against the return of the plague or against its obtaining a foothold and becoming epidemic should cases unfortunately be introduced from the mainland. In taking measures with that object it is impossible to avoid touching the interests of property owners. The question then arises, to what extent if any should the landlords be compensated for this interference with their interests. Where the insanitary condition of houses is directly attributable to the default of the owners this question can only be answered in one way, namely, by declaring definitely that no compensation at all shall be given. A mistake was unfortunately made in providing in the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance for interest being paid to the owners of property in that district on the price at which the resumption is to be effected from the date of the closing of the houses to the date of the payment of the money. This gave the unofficial members some ground for urging that the owners of houses outside that district which have been closed for longer or shorter periods should be compensated for the loss of rent. They contended that all should be treated alike, and that the payment of interest to the Taipingshan owners was equivalent to compensation for loss of rent. To this the answer has been

given to the Taipingshan owners that is no reason why the owners of plague nurseries in other parts of the colony should be compensated because it has been decided that their houses must be placed in a sanitary condition. There is probably not a landlord in the colony who would not be glad to have his property resumed on the terms of the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance. The plague has turned out an excellent thing for those fortunate individuals who owned property in that district, just as a fire is a fortunate thing for a man who has his property overinsured and succeeds in recovering the full amount. It was unfortunate that such a mistake was made in the Taipingshan Ordinance, but that is no reason why the colony should go on improperly paying compensation. The amount involved in the case of the houses mentioned in the schedules to the present Bill would probably be found on investigation to be comparatively small, but it is important as a matter of principle that the claim for compensation should not be admitted. It many unfortunately happen that the colony may have a succession of visitations of the plague and that many houses may have to be closed during the epidemics, in which case to pay compensation in respect of them all would be a severe drain on the finances of the colony. But more important than the mere financial question is the consideration that landlords should be made to understand that the ownership of property imposes on them other duties than the mere receiving of rents and that if they allow their houses to fall into an insanitary condition it is at their own risk. If they are to be compensated at the expense of the public for the consequences of their own neglect what inducement would there be for them to keep their property in good order? To pay such compensation would indeed be a direct incentive to neglect, for if landlords found that visitations of the plague profited their own pocket there would be at least some amongst them who would rather hope for such visitations than work for deliverance from them. In this matter therefore, as well as in the other questions decided on Saturday, we think the public at large will thank the Government for having used the official phalanx to outvote the unofficial members.

There is one debatable clause in the Bill, however. We refer to the means by which it is proposed to regulate the height of buildings according to the width of the streets or lanes on which they abut. It is unquestionable that the height of buildings should be so regulated, but the question of how that policy is to be carried into effect is a very wide and difficult one and deserves much more mature consideration than has yet been given to it. In the meantime a compromise has been arrived at which seems to satisfy the unofficial members of Council, but we think the most sensible course would have been to strike section 12 out of the Bill, as proposed by the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, leaving the matter to be dealt with hereafter. Not that we would by any means advocate its being shelved indefinitely, but it is out of place in the present Bill, which is supposed to deal with matters of urgency. The regulation of the height of buildings is not a matter of urgency. It will be many years before the section dealing with this matter can have any appreciable effect either in widening streets or reducing the height of buildings abutting upon them, and it would have been better if the Government, the parties interested, and the community at large had had more time to consider with due deliberation the difficult problem

of how narrow streets are to be dealt with. This matter stands on quite a different footing from that of the insanitary condition of houses generally. The duty devolving on a landlord to keep his house in a sweet and wholesome condition and not to allow it to be overcrowded is self-evident, but where narrow lanes have been permitted by the Government, to throw on the owners the expense of widening those lanes or of reducing the height of their houses seems to be imposing on them a burden which they cannot fairly be called upon to bear. According to the figures mentioned by the Hon. C. P. CHATER on Saturday, to carry out the policy embodied in the section as it stood on the second reading of the Bill would have involved the property owners in some fourteen private lanes running from Queen's Road to the Praya in a sum of some two million dollars. The loss, it is true, would have been extended over a great number of years, for it is only when houses have to be rebuilt, either through having been burnt down, damaged by typhoons, or in consequence of natural decay, that it is proposed to compel the owners to set them back from the old frontage or to reduce their height. According to the amendment adopted yesterday these particular lanes will not be materially interfered with by the Bill, though others in different parts of the Colony may be. But if it is important that these lanes should be widened, the question suggests itself whether it is expedient to wait for the slow operation of the causes above mentioned. In large towns at home it is not an uncommon thing for the municipal authorities to decide on the widening of streets, and especially in London have large operations of this character been carried out. In such cases the usual course has been for the authorities to acquire by purchase the property affected and deal with it in accordance with the general plan decided upon. The loss probably has not been great; in many instances there has no doubt been a profit, values being enhanced by the improvements when the operations have been carried out on a large scale by public authorities; but if the work were thrown on private owners acting individually as circumstances might render rebuilding necessary, the present loss would be considerable, and if ultimately, when after the lapse of many years the scheme had been completed, values should become largely enhanced, as would no doubt be the case, it would be another generation of owners that would reap the benefit. Instead, therefore, of dealing with the matter in the way proposed in the present Bill, by which no benefit will be felt for the next half century—for no owner would enter on rebuilding operations under such conditions as long as an old house would stand—it would be better to deal with it on broad grounds and as a question *sui generis*. Under any circumstances the subject is out of place in the present Bill and would have been more appropriately dealt with in an amendment of the Building Ordinance. The matter might advantageously form the subject of inquiry by a Commission, both as to the necessity of widening in respect of each lane individually and the means by which the improvement could best be carried into effect. The question has been sprung upon the colony suddenly, almost at a moment's notice, and it may be useful to explain how it has arisen. It was not mentioned in the Bill as read a first time, but in the draft submitted to the Sanitary Board on the 17th inst. a section appeared providing that the height of houses on land hereafter bought from the Crown should be limited according to the width of the streets, the conditions with regard to existing

property being much more liberal. Mr. LEIGH pointed out that there was practically no Crown land remaining for sale in the city and suggested that the provision should be made applicable to all houses to be built hereafter, whether on land which had already passed into the hands of private owners or on land to be purchased from the Crown. This suggestion was adopted by the Board, practically without discussion and without any representations being made as to its effect on property owners. The amendment was accepted by the Government apparently in the same off-hand manner, but has been modified in deference to the opinion of the unofficial members of Council, neither at the hands of the Government, nor of the Sanitary Board, nor of the community at large has the subject received due consideration. The Health Bill generally is a matter of urgency, but this particular subject is not urgent and might well have been left over until it had been more fully gone into. Anything in the nature of spoliation is to be deprecated, and the new born zeal for reform should not be allowed to run to that extreme. Where a man wantonly neglects his property and allows it to fall into such an insanitary condition as to become a danger to the public health we would not consider out and out confiscation to be a severe penalty for his neglect, but where it is a question of carrying out a great municipal improvement and of altering conditions for which the present property owners are in no degree responsible, such as the widening of narrow lanes, due consideration should be given to the principles of equity.

DOMICILIARY VISITS.

The Insanitary Dwellings Bill passed last week establishes the power of the Sanitary Board to order domiciliary visits, which may be made at any time, either by day or night. We must trust to the Board to exercise the power with discretion, and no doubt the public will feel greater confidence in its right use when entrusted to a semi-representative body than if any individual Government official were made responsible for it. The reasons advanced in support of the necessity of inspection were weighty and, as regards certain classes of houses, convincing, but it would have been prudent to place some limitation on the use of the power. No one disputes the necessity of inspection in the case of common lodging houses, and from these to the tenement houses let off in cubicles to separate families is but a step. According to the Acting Colonial Secretary, at the time of the plague inspections it was found that the latter class of houses were more overcrowded than the former. Although it cannot be supposed that nightly inspections will be welcomed by the occupants of tenement houses, they will perhaps not be actively resented. The circumstances under which these people live do not allow them much privacy at any time and the visit of the Inspector will not wound their susceptibilities very much. But in the case of the better class of houses occupied by a single family, or where the whole of one floor is occupied by one family, it is to be feared that the Inspector's visits made during the night will be considered a real grievance. The Attorney-General says that as the law stands an Inspector might visit his house, and the hon. gentleman does not seem to think the visit would constitute any very great hardship. Lawmakers must be supposed to be willing to submit to the laws they establish, but with the ordinary Chinaman, unfamiliar with the object of the law, and sensible only of the annoyance

caused by the visit, the irritation can hardly fail to be acute. We know what the feeling would be in any town or village in England if an Inspector went round the houses during the hours of the night to ascertain their condition either as regards cleanliness or overcrowding. And the feeling will be very much the same in Hongkong if the inspection be made general. But the law does not require inspection; it merely permits it, the provision being that "Any officer of the said Board specially authorised by the Board and subject to such directions as the Board may impose, may enter and inspect at any time any domestic building for the purpose of ascertaining whether such building or any part thereof is in an overcrowded condition." We must look to the Sanitary Board, therefore, to exercise this great power with due discretion and to authorise inspection only in cases where there may be good *prima facie* reason to believe that overcrowding really exists. The ordinary common sense of the Board may perhaps be considered a sufficient guarantee against abuse of the power. The Governor also gave his personal guarantee, but that is worth practically nothing. His Excellency can exercise no direct control in the matter, which by law is confided absolutely to the Sanitary Board, except that the by-laws of that body are subject to the approval of the Legislative Council. Moreover, His Excellency in a few years will be succeeded by another Governor, who would not be bound by any personal guarantee given by his predecessor. Personal guarantees in respect to the administration of the laws are in fact entirely out of place; they ought not to be offered and certainly ought never to be accepted. The law has to be interpreted solely by what is contained within its four corners and personal feeling and personal opinion ought to be entirely eliminated from its administration.

SEWER VENTILATION.

At the last annual meeting of the British Medical Association an interesting discussion took place, in the section of Public Medicine, on sewer ventilation, a question of special interest to us in Hongkong, where the foul stench arising from the drains form a subject of constant complaint. The discussion, though interesting, was inconclusive in its outcome, the doctors being very much divided in opinion. The opening paper was read by Mr. J. T. NEECH, L.R.C.P., who said he was inclined to think that no one system would be found successful in every case. Pipe ventilators, he said, were not always effective, for reasons which he assigned, and he gave a description of a system of automatic valves he had invented to prevent sewer air being carried down the sewer. As to the merits of this system we do not feel competent to form an opinion. What we find most interesting in the discussion are the references to first principles, especially as to the extent to which sewer ventilation is desirable. Dr. SIDNEY DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Plumstead, contributed a paper in which he urged that whether or not microbes were present in it sewer gas was undoubtedly injurious. He held that thorough ventilation in large sewers was only needed for the men who worked in them, that ventilation did not diminish but perhaps increased the formation of foetid gases, that shaft ventilators in houses were not much less objectionable than open manholes, and that all houses should be disconnected from sewers and only so much ventilation supplied as might be requisite to serve as safety valves, which was very little, for the danger from pressure of gas had

been much exaggerated; he advocated giving sewers sufficient vent to relieve pressure, but said better no vent than too much ventilation. Perhaps we have too much sewer ventilation in Hongkong. A letter was read from Dr. F. W. CLARK, who was unable to be present, in which the writer said that in his opinion surface ventilators were undoubtedly one cause of the spread of such diseases as diphtheria and enteric fever in urban districts; and that to create draughts throughout the length of the sewers, as was done by the modern system of inlets and outlets, was one of the surest ways of contaminating the atmosphere we breathe with such germs as must find their way into the sewers by the discharges of patients suffering from these diseases. Sanitary authorities, Dr. CLARK went on to say, must recognise that it is possible to have smells without increased pressure and that it is better to bottle a smell than to dilute and so "purify" it by spoiling a large bulk of pure air; that the foul odours which at present emanate from street gratings or grid ventilators must be confined to their proper place—the sewer—and instead of clumsy and inelegant shafts we should have a few 3½ in. or 4 in. pipes at intervals, which should act solely as "safety valves" to equalise the internal and external pressures. "Whether the sewers be old brick constructions or the more modern glazed pipes," the writer concluded, "I believe that, with adequate flushing, little or no ventilation is required, and that 'fresh air inlets are a serious mistake, for be the more fresh air you suck or pump into your sewers, the more foul air will there be emanating at other points, and contaminating the atmosphere, without in any way benefiting the sewer or its tributaries.' In opposition to this opinion, however, Dr. KEMP gave an account of the experience of Adelaide, South Australia, where a sewerage system had been introduced, one of the conditions of which was that the sewers should be ventilated by open grids in the middle of the roads and that these should be of sufficient size and in sufficient number to ensure that there should be no offensive smell; the result was that the loss of life by preventable disease had been enormously decreased. Various opinions were expressed by other speakers, and in closing the discussion the President of the section said—"If they could not keep sewers in a condition that the air that came out was innocuous some other system must be adopted. Thus they might have to go back to the old system based on the idea that the proper place for sewer air was the sewer. He did not think they could decide the matter that day. It must be decided with a great many more facts before them than they had now. If they could not keep the air innocuous they would have to abandon the present system of ventilators at the level of the streets." It would seem, therefore, that on this subject of sewer ventilation there is a considerable divergence of opinion in the medical profession. In dealing with our local position, however, and having before us the great and undoubted dangers arising from underground sewers, the proper course would be to avoid these dangers by having in the Chinese quarters of the town open sewers, for experience has shown that with the peculiar habits of the Chinese underground drains are almost certain to become choked and the traps to get out of order.

From the *Mercury* we learn that the *Kwei-yang*, piloted by Captain Way, when coming down from Tientsin went ashore just below the Taku forts. As high tide was coming on there was fear that she will not get off this winter.

THE WAR.

REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 23rd December.
The Japanese troops after five hours' severe fighting routed ten thousand Chinese near Hai Cheng on the 19th instant.

LONDON, 25th December.
The *Times* correspondent in Tientsin wires that Admiral Ting, by an Imperial edict, retains command of the Chinese fleet, the foreign officers of the fleet having declared the charges against him to be unjust and unfounded, and that they would resign if Admiral Ting were punished.

The sincerity of China in the present peace parleyings and negotiations is strongly doubted in official circles in Tokyo.

LONDON, 26th December.
KOREA
The Tonghak rebellion in Korea is spreading. The rebels have captured and burned several towns.

The Korean Government is borrowing 5,000,000 yen from the Japanese.

LONDON, 27th December.
It is officially announced in Yokohama that the Chinese have evacuated Newchwang and retired their forces.

LONDON 28th December.
Mr. Foster, late American Secretary of State, has accepted an invitation from the Chinese Government to proceed to Japan, in an unofficial capacity, to assist the Chinese envoys in the negotiations for peace. Japan acquiesces.

LONDON, 30th December.
Japanese despatches state that severe fighting occurred on the 19th instant in which the Chinese lost 300 and the Japanese 42.

Mr. Foster has started for Tokyo.
THE BATTLE NEAR HAICHENG.
[FROM THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY."]

YOKOHAMA, 23rd December.
A telegram from Hiroshima, dated 22nd instant, states that telegraphic advices had that day been received from Antung stating that General Katsura had reported that, as the Chinese Army, under General Sung, ten thousand strong, were retreating from Kaoping, and passing near the Japanese encampment in the direction of Liao-yang, he (General Katsura) determined to check their movements. To effect this he sent out a full strength division. On the 19th Oseko's Brigade encountered the enemy at Kung-wassai, eight miles west of Haicheng. Soon after Oshima's Brigade entered the field and joined forces. The Chinese then made a stand, and severe fighting took place which lasted nearly five hours. The Japanese force consisted of four complete regiments of infantry and five batteries of artillery. The Chinese made a most stubborn resistance, but the Japanese dashed through the enemy four times, and ultimately defeated them, and the Japanese then occupied Kung-wassai. The Chinese were completely routed, and fled in great disorder, part of them to the westward and part in the direction of Yingkow. The Chinese losses are heavy, and the Japanese loss is still unknown.

YOKOHAMA, 27th December.
A telegram from Haicheng dated the 24th December, from Lieutenant-General Katsura, states that in the action of 19th December the Japanese casualties have now been ascertained, and that they are as follows:—Three officers and fifty-two men killed and eleven officers and three hundred and forty-five men wounded, of whom three hundred are in hospital.

The *Mercury* of the 20th inst. says:—The Insurance companies concerned in the Nicaraguan barque *Comet*, now ashore in Shih-tau Bay, have chartered the steaming *Pioneer* for the purpose of rendering every possible assistance to the unfortunate vessel. The *Pioneer*, commanded by Captain Price, left here last Wednesday night for the *Comet*, and reached the N.E. promontory before the blow came on. The tug has doubtless arrived at Shih-tau by this time and we hope to see her safely anchored in the harbour in a day or two. We learn from different sources that about 2,800 bags of rice have been landed from the *Comet* in good condition, but the bulk of the cargo is more or less damaged. The *Comet* has nine feet water in her hold.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 24th ult. There were present:—
His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.
Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Acting Colonial Secretary.
Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, Attorney-General.
Hon. N. G. MITCHELL INNES, Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.
Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.
Hon. C. P. CHATER.
Hon. HO KAI.
Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.
Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS BILL.
The Council resumed committee on section 12 of the Insanitary Dwellings Bill.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Your Excellency, since last meeting, at which the senior unofficial member called the attention of this Council to the serious effect this clause might have on certain properties lying between Queen's Road and the Praya, I have carefully considered the amendments which might be rightly made to meet his objections. There is no doubt the circumstances in this colony are somewhat different from what they are in other places, and the strict enforcement of this clause might cause a considerable sacrifice of property. On referring to the last by-laws passed by the Birmingham Corporation, I find that where the Corporation is satisfied that great loss to property would accrue from the width of the new streets, they have power to impose less rigid restrictions with regard to the width of the street and the height of the buildings. The Birmingham by-law provides that not less than 24 feet shall be left, which is considerably in excess of what is proposed in this section. I will, however, to meet the hon. member's objection, move the following amendment—the clause to read as follows:—

"No building shall hereafter be erected of a greater height than in accordance with the following rules:—(a)—In the case of any existing street where the length of such street does not exceed 420 feet, provided always that such street is clear of any obstruction, including verandahs and balconies, either vertical or lateral throughout its entire length as measured from the main thoroughfares on to which it leads, the height of any building hereafter erected shall not exceed 35 feet where the width of such street on which the principal front of such building abuts does not exceed 15 feet; where the width of such street exceeds 15 feet but does not exceed 20 feet, the height of such building shall not exceed 45 feet. (b.)—In all other cases, the height of a building shall not exceed 25 feet where the width of the street on which the principal front of such building abuts does not exceed 15 feet. Where the width of such street exceeds 15 feet but does not exceed 20 feet, the height of such building shall not exceed 40 feet. Where the width of such street exceeds 20 feet but does not exceed 25 feet, the height of such building shall not exceed 45 feet. Where the width of such street exceeds 25 feet but does not exceed 30 feet, the height of such building shall not exceed 52 feet. Where the width of such street exceeds 30 feet but does not exceed 35 feet the height of such building shall not exceed 65 feet. Where the width of such street exceeds 35 feet but does not exceed 40 feet the height of such building shall not exceed 75 feet. No building shall exceed 75 feet in height above the level of the street, without the permission of the Sanitary Board."

Then, in order to provide for the improvement of streets as regards height of buildings in any private lane that may hereafter be resumed by the Government, I propose that the following sub-section be added:—"For the purposes of this section any building hereafter erected so that its principal front abuts on any private street resumed by the Government and widened to the extent of one-half of its existing width shall be deemed to come within the provisions of rule b."

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Your Excellency, I must express my sincere thanks to you, on behalf of the unofficial members and myself, for the kind consideration you have given to this clause. I accept the amendment of the Director of Pub-

the Works with a slight rider to the first rule. This order would not alter the Bill materially, and I feel sure that if the Government accepted it, it would not in any way interfere with the objects in view. I therefore propose that the words "the principal front of such building abuts shall not exceed 15 feet" should be altered to 14 feet. And in the next clause I would suggest that 75 be altered to 76 feet. With these alterations I should be very pleased to second the amendment.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I am prepared to accept the alterations.

Hon. E. R. BELILLO—I do not think the Bill provides up to what point a building shall be measured for the purpose of determining the height.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—That is provided for at the end of the section:—"The height of any building shall be measured from the level of the street to the underside of the eaves of such building, at their point of junction with the main walls thereof."

The section was then passed *nem. con.*

The Council resumed and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, this Bill having passed its third reading, it only remains for me to thank the Sanitary Board, the Housing Committee, and the unofficial members, and especially the senior unofficial member, for the advice and assistance they have given to the Government in the matter. It is quite true that several of the sections of this Bill have been carried by the official majority; and I am very sorry indeed there was not more unanimity of opinion in regard to these disputed provisions. With reference to section 10, which was referred to very strongly by Dr. Ho Kai—respecting domiciliary visits—I will give my personal guarantee that these domiciliary visits, when necessary, shall be regulated with the very greatest care—(applause)—and if there is any report of undue interference I will ask the Registrar-General to inquire into the matter and report to me fully in regard to it. (Applause.) What the Government feels in regard to this measure is this, that in a colony where the shipping is so enormous and commerce so valuable no possible precaution that may prevent a recurrence of the plague or any other epidemic should be neglected. We hope that this Act will be effective and that its provisions will be cheerfully acquiesced in, to the benefit of the general health of the colony and to the prosperity of the community at large. I now adjourn the Council and will let you know the date of our next meeting. In the meantime I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Applause.)

Hon. C. P. CHATEL—On behalf of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, I beg to reciprocate the very kind wishes your Excellency has just expressed towards us.

TAIPINGSHAN RESUMPTION ARBITRATION BOARD.

The first meeting of the Taipingshan Arbitration Board was held on Thursday morning in the Supreme Court. His Honour Mr. E. J. Aekroyd, Acting Chief Justice, is Chairman of the Board and the other members are Mr. E. F. Alford and Mr. W. Danby, with Mr. A. Seth as Secretary. The court room was well attended by those interested and their solicitors.

The CHAIRMAN, on opening the proceedings, said—The Board is glad, after some unavoidable delays, at being in a position to-day to begin its work. We do not conceal from ourselves the difficulties of the task before us nor the importance that many of our decisions must have for some of the claimants. We feel that in the Government, the public, and the owners of the resumed property we have so many opposing interests before us difficult to deal with, and it will be our duty to endeavour as far as possible to reconcile these and to apportion their rights to each. With this purpose in view, it will be our constant aim to grant to all a patient and impartial hearing and, while admitting that an owner may naturally seek to recover what he may consider is a fair compensation for the land which has been resumed, we trust we shall not have to deal with any exaggerated claims, for those who seek justice must come prepared to do

justice and with just claims. We trust that in the long and difficult task which lies before us, we may rely on the assistance and cooperation of all the professional gentlemen who are engaged. We are sure that, from the Government and those who represent it, we will receive all the help possible, and we repeat that, as our only aim is to do justice to all, we trust that the help of all will not be found wanting.

The first case called was that of the Dominican Fathers; but counsel not being ready, it was adjourned until Saturday.

The claim of Mr. S. G. Bird was then taken up. Mr. V. H. Deacon appeared for the claimant and the Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman), assisted by the Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) and Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the Government.

Before opening his case Mr. Deacon said that he understood that there was certain expert testimony and statistical matter filed by the counsel for the Government and he wished to know if such would be open to his inspection.

His Lordship thereupon ruled that such was only *prima facie* evidence and was open to any examination that might be desired.

Mr. Deacon then asked whether the Court had laid down any rule with regard to mortgages and other holders of equitable interests in the properties.

After some discussion on this point the Board decided that it would not concern itself in any way with titles, that it would make its award to the owner of the property, and that it would remain for the Government to determine who such owner was, and in the case of dispute arising, to apply to such court as would be proper to consider that question, but so far as the present Board was concerned they had only to look into and determine the value of the property and the amount of compensation to be given to each owner.

The claim of Mr. Bird was then proceeded with. It was for lots 244, B. & C., Taipingshan.

Mr. Deacon, on account of the ruling of the Court relating to mortgages and other claimants, modified his claim to that of owner and asked for \$5,500, value of the property, and \$480, arrears of rent due on same, making \$6,000, plus 10 per cent. indemnity that he claimed for appropriation of the property. The total claim was thus \$6,680. The Government had offered on the 10th December of this year \$2,691, but this was declined. Mr. Deacon then cited his principal authority for his view of the proper method of determining the value of the property and the consequent compensation that should be allowed. It was a recent case and was cited in the *Law Times*, New Series, No. 70, of June, 1894, page 527. The principle therein laid down for determining compensation in this class of cases he called to the especial attention of the Board as having unusual weight, since the case had been sustained in the House of Lords. He read at some length from the case, wherein it was emphatically laid down that the rule governing such cases was to determine capitalization of the rental value. The question, then, was as to the best method of determining this value and fixing the rate of capitalization. He said that while there might be different opinions as to the method of procedure in such cases, he thought that the plan described in the case cited was unquestionably the best, and that, based on this course, and adapting it to this community and the special circumstances governing the Taipingshan question, a valuation of 15 years' purchase at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum was fair and reasonable. And if this view was accepted all it would be necessary to do would be to determine the correct rental value of the property.

His Lordship hereupon interposed and said that he did not think there would be any great difficulty in coming to a satisfactory understanding on that point when once a proper method had been agreed upon for determining the rental value.

Mr. Deacon then continued, saying that they chose 7 per cent. because that was the average return on money invested on mortgage and was a reasonable rate for investments in this class of property. He next took up the nature of this particular lease and showed that it was one of the oldest Crown leases and that under the letter from the Home authorities of 3rd March, 1849, the owner would have the right to convert the same into a lease for 999 years, which practically made it as good as a freehold since there were no re-

strictive conditions attached to the present holding except of the most inconsequential character.

His Lordship admitted the right of conversion.

Mr. Deacon next raised another point with regard to the law of compensation, by which he claimed an increase on the value of the property of at least 10 per cent. as indemnity for appropriation of the property by the Government and cited Lloyd on the Law of Compensation, 5th edition, page 66, and maintained that 10 per cent. for compulsory sale was a very reasonable claim. As to the value of the lease he said there might be different opinions, but every one seemed to be pretty well agreed on the rate of interest, and that 7 per cent was a fair rate. He also cited instances in which the House of Lords had allowed as high as 50 per cent. for indemnity and had given as much as 25 per cent. for country land, but said that the claimant did not wish to be unreasonable and asked only 10 per cent.

Mr. Bird was then called as a witness, and said that he was a land surveyor in Hongkong from 1878 to 1889 and that since then he had been most of the time engaged in the real estate business. He said that the first time he saw the houses on lot 244 B & C was in 1892, when he went down to see about making a loan on them, that he looked at them from the outside and went in on the ground floor, but did not go over the buildings any further, as he considered himself sufficiently qualified to pass on such property without a more minute examination. He did make a loan of \$5,500 at 8 per cent. and had not seen the buildings since, until last Saturday, when he again visited them. When he made the loan the buildings were in good condition and made a presentable appearance, but when he saw them the other day they were in a bad condition, the wind and rain having blown through the open doors and windows that had been left open for ventilation, and thereby much damaged the building. He thought the buildings were now about six years old. He did not know anything about the inside arrangement of the buildings, nor whether there were mezzanine floors contrary to the provisions of the law, but thought that possibly there might be some modifications of the floors necessary under the new law. The area of the house was 35 by 27 feet or 945 square feet. He entered into possession in November, 1892, and the returns from actual rentals received during 1892-1893 were \$582.50. The taxes of \$62.40 were paid by him. The value of one room for one year was \$30, or \$498 for all of them. The taxes for the following year were \$48.80. The mean gross rental of the buildings for the two years was \$540.25. The first year it was \$582.50, the next year \$498, making an average of \$540.25 for the two years, from which should be deducted the following items:—Crown rent \$3.96, fire insurance 1 per cent. on a valuation of the building, exclusive of foundation, of \$1,800, \$18; allowance for repairs and maintenance 2 per cent. on \$1,800, \$36; average taxes \$54.36; making all told \$112.50, which, deducted from the gross rental of \$540.25, leaves a net rental of \$427.75, which, capitalised at 7 per cent. on a fifteen years' valuation, would give \$6,110. He also said it was not his practice to allow for vacant floors or for other depreciation than that provided for in the two per cent. which he considered ample for property in Chinese tenements. He thought the valuation of \$3.90 per square foot for the land very low. When cross-examined by the Attorney-General, he said:—I made my own value on the property when I advanced \$5,500. I did not say that I had been paid anything on the principal, only on account of interest. The capitalisation of the rental on the basis of 14.27 years at 7 per cent. would yield about \$6,000. The houses were closed in May, 1894. The rent for 1893-1894 was \$498. Assessment came in July of 1894. I do not know what amounts were sent into the assessor; Mr. Maitland had charge of that. I do not know anything about the basis on which the assessor determines the amount of each assessment; but, in any event, the amounts that we turn in and the amounts on which we pay are often different things. As for instance, in this case, where you say that his books show for 1892-1893 a valuation of \$240 for each house, or \$480 for the two, and last April \$140 for each of the two or \$280 for the two. I do not know what the difference is between what I paid on and what I returned because that part was arranged by my accountant. Yes, these figures

have here have been prepared by our accountant. Yes, of course, if you succeed in showing that an average of \$173 per annum is as much rental as we could reasonably hope to get, instead of \$547, it would make a difference in the amount of the claim we are entitled to. We make no allowance for empty floors, since that is partly considered in the price of rent. We have occasionally been allowed the rebate in taxation for such vacancies, specified in the Ordinance. We have not converted three storied houses into six by mezzanine floors; the houses were as they now are when we came into possession of them; but I have never been inside them. I believe there are only 6 feet 11 inches between the floors instead of the 11 feet you inquire about.

By His Lordship (to the Attorney-General)—And yet the officers connected with the Government, having this matter in charge, have allowed this state of things to go on.

The Attorney-General—Yes, your Lordship, there are lots of breaches of the law occurring all the time, of which we are ignorant, but when we do find them we bring them up for punishment. (Addressing witness). By your putting in or having in extra floors you have increased your rent and have, thus, added to the value of your property.

Mr. Bird—I do not think it has made so very much difference, for we should, under the Ordinance, be allowed to extend the floors half across at least and it may be more, and in any case, bunk beds could be swung in.

The Attorney-General—At how much do you value the house?—I value the houses at \$2,090, and the difference between that and the \$6,110, or \$4,020, represents the value of the site.

The Attorney-General—How do you arrive at the capitalisation of your property?

Mr. Bird—It is substantially the same as that outlined by Mr. Deacon. I do not insure the foundation, because it would not suffer materially in a fire. I consider 2 per cent. ample allowance for repairs and for keeping that class of property in repairs. I think 3 per cent. for repairs is excessive.

The Attorney-General—How is it that assessors, who generally value property at a proper figure, have in this instance made the valuation even lower than your own figures?

Mr. Bird—I do not know. He arrives at his results in his own way, but I have always found him fair.

The Attorney-General—According to the assessor, the last valuation is \$280, and that should be a fair value of the property.

Mr. Bird—As I have already explained, what we return as the rental value of the property and what we pay on are two different things.

By His Lordship—I wish we had the returns. It would save so much time and trouble.

The Attorney-General—Your Lordship, I have been trying to find those returns, but we seem not to be able to find any trace of them.

By Mr. Deacon—You have, do you not, two forms sent you to fill called A and B and in A the total rent is asked by the assessor?

Mr. Bird—I do not know. My clerk attends to that.

By His Lordship—If you were asked to buy a house in which there were apt to be vacant rooms, would you not take such into consideration in fixing the value of the house?

Mr. Bird—We make no deduction for vacant rooms; in making loans we lend only 75 per cent. of the value.

The Attorney-General—How did you come into possession of this property?

Mr. Bird—We got the property by the man's leaving the colony.

The Attorney-General—You are sure that the loan was not made at valuation so excessive as to be in danger of getting the property? And did he not disappear because he got top price for the property?

Mr. Bird—No, he got into some trouble.

The Attorney-General—Do you not charge 5 per cent. for collection of rentals?

Mr. Bird—Yes.

By His Lordship—How many months' rent did you collect before he left?

Mr. Bird—I cannot tell from memory.

Mr. Francis Maitland, the accountant of Messrs. Linstead and Davis, of which firm Mr. Bird is the senior partner, was then called as witness, and testified that he had kept the books of the firm for eight years and that the first entry concerning this piece of property was 14th Nov., 1892. The

shop of No. 56 was rented for \$10 per month. During the period in question the houses had earned rents at an average of \$35 29; but, if the \$60 were added, that was due on the place when it came into their possession, the rental would average \$38; but during that time there was loss by tenants running away on account of the plague, making another \$49 or \$50. The 1893 and 1894 returns were given early in 1893. During the last two or three years we have not returned forms to the assessor, on account of the large number of pieces of property and the extra work it would give the assessor, but I have taken my books and laid them before him and he has taken his memoranda therefrom with my written statement and has entered the figures on a thin long book of his, and if I could see that book I could identify the data that he copied off. I swear that I have truthfully given all our rentals straight from the rent rolls. I do not remember filling out form A during this time, since all the information was taken straight from our books. I think the assessment is made so low on account of the numerous vacancies we had and the unusually low rentals received. We have had no reason to complain of any rate assessed by the assessor.

His Lordship—We cannot go by this statement of the assessor, because it is his own valuation and not that returned. He fixes the value at \$230, but says nothing of the actual rental.

The Attorney-General—Your Lordship, the Ordinance says the ratable value shall be that value at which it may be reasonably expected to rent, less a possible 13 per cent. for vacancies.

The assessor's memorandum book was then produced in court, identified by the witness, and the Attorney-General proceeded with the examination. Several hypothetical cases were then taken up to determine the value of the property on certain bases of rental. A number of questions were also put that brought out substantially the same results and answers as had already been secured.

The Attorney-General then took up his argument and showed wherein he considered the method of determining valuation by rental alone to be defective, and dissecting the evidence of the plaintiff showed how the amount that the Government offered, in his estimation, was really in excess of the value of the property. His plan to determine the value of the property was:—1st, to determine the value of the site, from a comparison with the value of surrounding land; 2nd, to fix the value of a new house such as that standing on the lot; 3rd, then deduct the various items that may be considered as offsets, such as wear and tear and the other items already mentioned, and to establish all these points by systematic method and evidence. He objected also to the idea of calling leasehold freehold under any circumstances. In a long analysis of his position, supported by the evidence of Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, and others, he claimed that the Government had made a liberal offer for the property.

His Lordship then said that now that most of the preliminary considerations had been gone through with, the cases could be rapidly disposed of, and that all it would be necessary to do would be to determine the rents actually received and then come to some decision as to the number of years' purchase and the rate of interest to be allowed; and that to-morrow he would finish this case and cases 5, 9, 10, and possibly 1, 3, 20, and 4 would be reached.

The Taipingshan Arbitration Board sat again on Friday and proceeded with the consideration of compensation cases. Several claims were submitted, but judgment was reserved in all.

On opening the Court His Lordship said that before beginning he wished to remark that the Board had decided that the fairest way to determine the compensation value was to base it on the rental value, but the question was, which rental it should be? Should they take the highest rental, or the lowest rental, or an average rental, or the one just before the plague? They thought in determining this the location of the house and its past and its prospects and as many other conditions as possible should be taken into consideration, and on that plan they would proceed with the hearing of the cases.

And here, since it will have an important bearing on the discussion of all the cases that follow, we condense from the proceedings of the

last session of the Board some of the most important points in the remarks of the Attorney-General, in order that the position of the Government may be better indicated. We understand that the Attorney-General, in his opening speech, argued that the Lands Clauses Act was not a proper home Act on which to base the present inquiry; but the right Act for this purpose was the Act commonly known as the Housing of the Poor Act of 1890, and he believed it was upon this Act the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance had been framed. He drew the special attention of the Board to the section of the home Act which dealt with compensation in respect of dwellings which were overcrowded or occupied for illegal purposes or in any way formed a nuisance. The learned Counsel also drew the attention of the Board to the recital in the local Ordinance and the reason given therein for the necessity of resuming, namely, that certain portions of the said district have been found to be in a highly insanitary condition. He also drew attention to the words "full and fair compensation" in section 5 and pointed out that these words were apparently taken from the old Crown leases, which provide that the land demised may be resumed by the Crown, "upon payment of full and fair consideration," to be assessed by the Director of Public Works. He further mentioned that though, by the Ordinance, no compensation was to be allowed to any sub-lessee or tenant, in the case of any house unfit from any cause for human habitation, and that owners were exempted from this deduction, yet it appeared to him that the Board should have been empowered to treat owners on the same basis in this respect as that on which sub-lessees or tenants are treated.

The method of procedure in each case is now fixed and the investigations move along rapidly. First, the rentals are looked into, examining therefor both the witnesses for the plaintiff and the records of the assessor's office, and then any other person that can throw any light on what would be a fair rental. In this inquiry there is the closest scrutiny into the differences between the amounts sent in by the claimants from year to year and the amount assessed by the assessor. Secondly, having taken all the testimony available on the question of rental, the Board next investigates the value of the buildings on the property, including and excluding foundation, taking tax entries, insurance policies, and any other trustworthy record that bears on the matter. Thirdly, the value of the bare ground is looked into. Then, fourthly, all the deductions that should be made from the gross income are considered, such as taxes, fire insurance, Crown rent, repairs and maintenance, expense of collection of rent expenditure necessary to put buildings in proper condition to last the number of years allowed for in the capitalisation, and whatever other items each case may call for. Copious notes are taken by each member of the Board and by counsel on both sides.

The first case taken up yesterday was claim No. 5, being Nos.

56-60 SQUARE STREET.

Ng Tan How claimed \$7,550 in respect of Nos. 56, 58 and 60 Square Street.

Mr. C. D. Wilkinson represented the claimant. The China Fire Insurance Co., mortgagees of the property, were represented by Mr. J. B. Coughtrie, Secretary.

It appeared from the evidence of the claimant that he bought the property for \$5,300 two years ago. One of the houses had since been burned down and another damaged. The three were insured for \$2,400, and he received \$950 from the insurance company. He spent \$1,200 in rebuilding.

His Lordship—You bought these houses for \$5,300 two years ago and you now claim \$7,300. Would you not be satisfied if you get your \$5,300?

Witness—I should be satisfied if I get \$6,500.

His Lordship—I dare say you would.

Mr. R. K. Leigh gave his valuation of the property at \$7,155, exclusive of the 10 per cent. for forced sale.

Mr. J. B. Coughtrie—I lent \$4,000 on this property on the 3rd January, 1892.

Had you any valuation of the property made?—The matter was negotiated by Mr. Tomlin in my absence. We don't call it a survey, but the usual examination of the property was made. I find the property was sold on 13th December, 1886, for \$5,800; on the 4th July, 1887, \$5,800; the next sale was made without my knowledge,

after the mortgage, to the present possessor for \$5,300. I looked at the building myself.

According to what you saw, what was it worth?—I should value it at a little over \$6,000. I did so in 1892.

What did you base your calculations upon? The rentals were given to my office, when the application for mortgage was made, at \$711.60 per annum. Mr. Tomlin waited upon Mr. Chapman, the assessor, and found the assessed value of the property was \$630 per annum. The discrepancy between that and the rental return was very slight for Chinese property.

You base \$6,000 on the rental of \$711.60 per annum?—No; on \$630.

You have had experience in valuing property; what is the principle on which you go?—In getting at what would be a safe sum to lend I should ascertain the exact rentals. I should require these rentals to yield as much again as the interest of the loan would come to. It depends on circumstances.

Is that gross rental?—The net rental.

Any allowance for vacancies?—I would take the rent book and see what the property had yielded.

Say a net rental of \$100 per month; what would you value a property as being worth?—I would calculate upon how much it is worth to lend money upon whether I could entertain the proposal or not.

Suppose it brought in a net rental of \$100; how much would you lend on it?—It would pay interest on \$17,500 or \$18,000. You might lend \$10,000 on it.

In the case of this property, the houses were valued at \$2,400 for insurance purposes by the company's surveyors and you deduct that from the last price at which the property changed hands; that leaves the foundations and the land alone at the very moderate price of \$1.88 per foot.

To the Attorney-General—I lent \$4,000 on the property at 7½ per cent.

To Mr. Wilkinson—We were not asked to lend more in this case than \$4,000.

If asked you might have lent more?—Yes; we might. In making our calculations we calculate upon what the property would fetch on a forced sale.

To the Attorney-General—I do not think 3½ per cent. on the gross rental would be enough for repairs for the next fourteen or fifteen years for these houses.

Hon. F. A. Cooper, who had personally inspected the property, estimated the present value at \$4,284, but in consideration of certain circumstances had offered \$5,355.

The second case taken up was that of Mr. A. J. May in claims 1 and 13. He was represented by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson. Basing his claim on estimates made in a manner analogous to that used in the foregoing case, he claimed to be entitled to \$6,754, and in any event to \$6,500, while the Government had offered only \$4,399. Mr. Leigh was then called as witness and said that he valued the property at \$6,140 plus 10 per cent. That the property was fully developed and in good condition. The rent had been for 1892 \$510; for 1893 \$470; for 1894 \$470; making a total for the three years of \$1,450, which divided by 3 would give an average rental \$483.33; or for convenience say \$480, which capitalised would give \$6,140. He said that the property had not depreciated much. The Crown rent was \$10; fire insurance \$18; repairs \$45; and that there ought to be a further reduction of \$90 for putting the place into sanitary condition. The place was sold on 27th July, 1892, for \$6,000. He, like several other witnesses that had testified in these Taipingshan cases, said he had never heard of allowing anything for the collection of rents, that it was, amongst Chinese, always done by the proprietor himself, and with other people it was attended to by the shroff or some of the regular employees. Five per cent. was only paid to a regular agent who took entire charge of the property. Even if a charge were to be made, there were plenty of Chinamen who would be glad to do it for 1 per cent. The premises of No. 23 was a shop downstairs and residence upstairs and Nos. 25 and 27 were coolie lodging houses. While the family house was divided into cubicles, he did not know that it was any worse than many others. He thought all the houses needed was concrete in the basement. They did not yield much rent before and he did not think that the addition of concrete would add anything to

the income, the ground floor and the first floor being the most valuable parts. Hon. F. A. Cooper was then called as witness and said that he had examined these houses and valued them at \$4,399, the amount of the Government offer, although he considered the amount really in excess of their exact value to-day, notwithstanding they sold in 1892 for \$6,000. The cubic capacity of the buildings was 59,000 cubic feet, which at 3 cents a cubic foot would make the estimated cost of construction of the buildings \$1,770, and he considered them worth to-day \$1,239. He valued the land at \$1.75 a square foot, which would make \$2,619 for the land. The rent returned to the treasurer for 1894-1895 was \$578.40, including rates. The deductions to be made were rates \$75.19, collection \$28.92, insurance \$17.70, repairs \$61.65, Crown rent \$7.66, making all told \$191.42, which deducted from the \$578.40, would make about \$387, and this, multiplied by 12, would give \$4,644 as the value of the houses, on the basis of the new Ordinance. The Government had offered \$4,399. He considered the condition of the houses undesirable, and he valued the depreciation of the houses at not less than 30 per cent. The basements were dark, badly ventilated, and entered from a narrow lane, and unfit for human habitation. He also understood that some of the first cases of the plague were carried from these very basements. The buildings have mezzanine floors and cock-lofts. He said that he had calculated his valuation on the last rental return. Mr. A. Shelton Hooper was then called and showed his method of arriving at the value of the property, by which he made it over \$7,000, but he based the valuation on a higher rate than 7 per cent. and did not allow for certain deductions made in the estimates of the others.

The next case taken up was that of Mr. C. Palmer, represented by Mr. H. L. Dennys. Mr. Dennys submitted three systems of determining the valuation, either one of which came out at about the same figures, the amount of his claim. The first was to calculate the value of the area at \$4.75 per square foot, which yielded \$13,770, and five buildings at \$1,305 each gave \$6,525, making a total of \$20,295. The amount claimed was \$20,432. The second method was to use the rental as a basis; five houses at \$28 would be \$140 per month, or \$1,680 per year. Deducting for Crown rent \$12, insurance \$75, repairs \$100, making a total of \$187, it would leave a net rental of \$1,493. Adding to this ground rent \$906, capitalisation of the buildings at 15 years and 7 per cent. would make \$5,341.70 and capitalisation of the ground for the same period and rate would make \$14,171.72, or a total of \$21,892.42. The third method consisted in considering the property as equivalent to an investment that would yield, at 7 per cent., \$1,493 annually, that is to say, a capital of \$21,328. Now adding the amounts obtained under these three separate methods of computation and taking the mean this would give \$20,432, the amount claimed, which was certainly as reasonable, from whatever standpoint one looked at it, as could be asked. Mr. Palmer was then examined as to some items concerning his rent returns to the assessor while he was away from the colony, and the Court then adjourned until Monday.

The Taipingshan Arbitration Board, sat again on Saturday and continued the consideration of compensation cases. No decisions have been given in any of the cases, but his Lordship said that to-day (Monday) the Board expected to decide what deductions from the rent would be made and how many years' purchase would be allowed in determining the value of the property. He wished, however, the learned counsel to bear in mind that the Board was principally interested in having two things clearly brought out, namely, the actual rent earned by the property and the general condition of the buildings and improvements. He also said the Board expected to sit three days each week and would push on with the cases as fast as their importance would permit; and that they would begin on Monday with No. 4, then take up 11 and 14, and on Thursday the case of the Italian Convent.

The Court then turned its attention to the consideration of the completion of the claim of Mr. Palmer, and subsequently to that of Chan Kwai, No. 10, and in connection with these two cases many interesting points arose for consideration, which the Attorney-General explained in detail. In regard to the

Chan Kwai case he claimed, on behalf of the Government, that there should be a deduction made on account of the excessive rentals obtained through overcrowding, the number of floors being practically doubled by the introduction of mezzanine floors and cocklofts, and cubicles, and evidence was given to show that having regard to the cubic capacity, if each tenant were allowed the new 400 cubic feet, and paid an average of \$4 per year, the buildings, even if crowded, could not contain enough people to produce the annual rental that was returned and claimed. The learned counsel for the Government also said that, in this connection, he wished to thank his Honour the Chairman for the statement he had made, at the previous session, of the principles by which the Board proposed to be guided in determining compensations, and he would like to point out two things which he hoped the Board would carefully weigh before arriving at their final decision. The first was as to whether this rental should be estimated on an average of years or on the return made prior to April last and the last year preceding. He contended that the last returns sent in by an owner, before any plague had broken out and before any idea of resumption or compensation was present to the mind of the owner, should be taken as a basis of rental compensation and that rents had been going down in Taipingshan and that, if the property had not been resumed, it was probable that rents would have gone down still farther as soon as the new stringent sanitary requirements were put in force, and that, though that law was not in force in June last, it would have been passed and come into force now whether Taipingshan had been resumed or not; therefore the owners would not have been able to continue the illegitimate state of things that had formerly existed. The second point to which the learned counsel invited the attention of the Board was that the words of section 13 of the Taipingshan Ordinance were very wide in respect to the deductions that the Court might make, and the words "or otherwise as to it may seem fair and reasonable" gave the Board power to make deductions where it seemed to them that the rents were excessive, owing to overcrowding prevailing in the premises, which, he said, could be proved in several of the cases, and he urged the Board to follow the analogy of the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890, which he proceeded to quote. He called particular attention to section 21 and urged that the circumstances in which Taipingshan was resumed were very similar to those under which compensation was provided in the Imperial Act just cited, which says that, with regard to lands compulsorily taken in pursuance of that Act, evidence should be receivable, 1st, "That the rental of the house or premises was enhanced by reason of the same being used for illegitimate purposes or being so overcrowded as to be dangerous or injurious to the health of the inmates," in which case, 2nd, "the compensation should only be based on the rental which would have been obtainable if the house or premises were occupied for legal purposes and only by the number of persons whom the house was fitted to accommodate, without such overcrowding as to be dangerous or injurious to the health of the inmates." This important Act also provides in section 41 "that the arbitrators are to make no additional allowance for compulsory purchase." The learned counsel next called the attention of the Board to section 13 of the Taipingshan Ordinance, which specifies that "the Board may make deductions not only in respect to age, character, insanitary condition, and state of repairs," but also "or otherwise as to them may seem fair and reasonable" and that therefore deductions for surroundings should be made and were admissible under those words "or otherwise," and also that where the house or premises taken were unfit and not reasonably capable of being made fit, the compensation should be simply the value of the land and the materials of the building. And now, your Lordship, continued the Attorney-General, in this particular case that we are now about to continue, Claim No. 10, we have a good illustration of the desirability of taking the last year's rental as a basis for the compensation, for here we have a lot of different theories and elaborate calculations of experts and to attempt to find one's way through them only leads to confusion. Why should we take a number of years, and, if so, what is to determine the number?

We cannot go into the question of whether the property will be more valuable at some other day or was more valuable sometime in the past. What fairer test can there be than the returns handed in by the man himself to the assessor? And, furthermore, your Lordship, the task of reconciling the rentals sent to the assessor with the amounts received is almost hopeless, the discrepancies being so great.

His Lordship—Yes, that would be desirable, but our difficulty comes here, in that we must allow for forced sale. Even assuming we have the right to act as you argue, there is still no provision for compulsory sale.

The Attorney-General—Yes, but your Lordship will also please remember the condition in which the property and surroundings were at the time they were taken and that the owner instead of receiving extra compensation was liable to punishment and in cases even to confiscation of his property as the natural outcome of the law. I have cited, and cases can be cited where not only the property has been confiscated, but a penalty has been imposed in addition, and where a man has neglected to send in his rentals for the three years he ought not to complain if the assessor's valuation is taken as a basis of compensation.

His Lordship—The rents at the time the houses were closed were at their lowest and it is very difficult to decide what is the fair thing to do under the circumstances. That the plague broke out is perhaps not the fault of the landlord and whose fault it is no one can tell.

The Attorney-General—Granting, your Lordship, the correctness of that position the owner would still not be entitled to additional compensation, for irrespective of what penalty he would subject himself to by a continuance of his illegal practices, the minute the Sanitary Board put its hands on these objectionable places the rents would certainly go down, and that is the main reason that this class of property holders is so bitterly opposed to sanitary restrictions. I again respectfully call the attention of the Board to the Public Health Ordinance 24 of 1887, section 67, which makes an overcrowded domestic building a public nuisance, and also to section 75, where those who so overcrowd are liable to a fine not exceeding \$50 and, in default of payment, to imprisonment not exceeding one month. I know it has been intimated that the officials are to blame for allowing these abuses to continue, but, while I dispute that statement, I call the attention of the Board to the fact that we had not sufficient authority until now to carry out the spirit of the law, although much might be said on that subject at another time. In the future, however, a different state of things will prevail and the law will be enforced, provided we have the support of the courts, and the first thing in the accomplishment of this desired end is the curtailment of the overcrowding, since the only way to reach these individuals is through their pockets. When they realise that their entire property and income may be endangered they will have to be content with smaller returns and live within the law. In all these discussions I have no personal interest whatever to serve and I wish there were some other way out of the difficulty, and, while I am here to help the Board in every way I can, yet I must say that I see no justification in either law or justice that these landlords should receive more than the value of their land and of the materials in their buildings. I recall to your Lordship and hon. members of the Board the 53rd and 54th of Victoria, section 41, which says the compensation shall be a fair amount of damages without any extra allowance, evidently the spirit of the law here being that the man shall in a sense be punished for maintaining a public nuisance. And he would be stopped from disputing the fairness of the returns, for they were sent in by himself at a time when there was no object in his trying to create a false impression.

Mr. H. L. Denny—Your Lordship, I must take exception to some of the inferences of the learned counsel. The section of the Ordinance should be read to the end, where special emphasis is placed on the words "full and fair compensation." Now that means "full and fair," not something essentially unfair. My client purchased the property for \$20,000 hard cash and that fact is beyond dispute. He also earns thereon 8 per cent. and we have no right to impeach his veracity in regard to these statements, that were so clearly shown to be correct. Now is 8 per cent. an unreasonable

amount for a man to earn on property in Taipingshan? There were no cocklofts in the premises at the time he let them and when he received \$30 a month for them, and mezzanine floors have been in buildings practically without restriction ever since the beginning of the colony. It is barely possible the floors may extend a foot or two too much, but that is easily remedied. The learned counsel says that the Government is not responsible for the wide prevalence of this state of things, but, if it is not, I should like to know who is responsible. These buildings, too, are almost new and it is not fair and reasonable compensation to value them at such figures as the Government has seen fit to do. The landlord does not wish to have this property taken from him; he prefers to keep it, but, if he must part with it, he is entitled to a fair and reasonable compensation. He paid \$30,000 for it when the dollar was worth nearly twice as much as it is to-day. If the houses were, as the Government claims, in an insanitary condition, he should have been notified, but he has never received any such intimation. There is a period of depression now that extends more or less over the entire civilised world and that has been emphasised here by our special disasters, but in a reasonably short time these hard times will pass away and better days come, and property is sure to enhance in value. Such property owners as have means and can wait especially when they are earning a fair return on their investment, think they have an excellent chance for a good speculation in holding and have no desire to sell. It is therefore manifestly unfair to take the property at the lowest valuation. It is a serious reflection on the future of the colony. This landlord has been twelve years in this colony and has made the valuation of property and the buying and selling of same his special study. Is it then reasonable to suppose that he did not know what he was doing when he purchased this piece, and that he paid an excessive price for it? It was evidently a carefully considered investment on his part and he believed the property would have a steadily increasing value.

His Lordship—Yes, but you must remember that your argument cuts both ways. If he is to expect 8 per cent., the number of years allowed in the compensation will be correspondingly diminished.

Mr. Denny—I understand that, and we are not asking for 8 per cent net. He gets only 8 per cent gross now. As your Lordship will remember, I made this claim on a different principle from that generally discussed here in the presentation of claims.

Mr. Deacon—I also object, your Worship, to some of the theories advanced by the Attorney-General. The Government cannot claim overcrowding and then claim deduction for vacancies. They cannot blow hot and cold. It may be the private opinion of the learned counsel for the Government that the Government is not obliged to exercise supervision in such matters, but, certainly, so far as I have ever been able to see, the law has long been otherwise. The Government by its *laches* has permitted this overcrowding to grow up and continue here from the earliest days of the colony and now all at once, without any notice to landlords, it proposes to initiate reforms and to punish as it were these men of property who have done so much to build the city, for having done that which the Government did not object to.

Mr. Maitland (whose name by mistake was given in the report of the first session of the Board as Mr. Nathan) was then recalled as a witness and was asked if he knew of the existence of a second agreement made by Mr. Palmer, but he said he did not.

CHAN KWAI, CLAIM NO. 10.

The next case called was that of Chan Kwai Claim No. 10, represented by Mr. C. D. Wilkin-son. In answer to some of the preliminary questions raised by counsel for the claimant, His Lordship said the Board would decide them on Monday when they took up the other matters they then expected to decide.

This is a claim for 14, 7 and 95 Square Street. The claim is \$6840, based on the report of their own valuator of the property, who values it at \$7,392. The Government offer is \$3,339. The owner refused \$3,000 for the land soon after purchasing it and since then had declined an offer of \$3,600 from Mr. Palmer. The rentals of the small house were not returned to the assessor

for last year, but for the year before they amounted to \$140, or about \$11 a month.

Mr. Leigh was then called and said that he had examined the property and that he estimated the small house to be worth \$2,420, exclusive of the 10 per cent. for forced sale, and that he arrived at the valuation in the following manner. He did not think the ordinary method of procedure applied in this case because the property on which the small house stood was not fully developed, and to arrive at a proper value it should be compared with surrounding property, and then add the value of the old material on the ground, taking the value of the square foot at \$1. To find what would be a fair value of the property, if developed, he compared it with the property of Mr. Palmer near by, of which he had ascertained the rentals and knew the purchase price and felt that Mr. Palmer, in making such investment understood what he was doing and would only buy where he felt sure there was a bargain. Mr. Leigh valued each of the five houses of Mr. Palmer at \$1,200, although he said they might to-day be built for much less, making \$6,000. The land he valued at \$14,000, it containing 2,900 square feet, which would make the value of the square-foot \$4.86. But, he said, let us say \$4 a foot for this claim 10 and add \$100 for old material. The area is 580 square feet, which at \$4 a foot would be \$2,320 and adding in the \$100 for old matter, would make a total of \$2,420. Now if the owner puts in about \$900 more, for that money he could build another four storey house and would have a good income bearing investment.

His Lordship—Just what do you mean by undeveloped and over-developed property?

Mr. Leigh—I call property undeveloped which in its present condition is not earning a fair return on the investment but which by judicious expenditure of a reasonable amount of money could be put in condition to earn a proper return on the investment; and on the other hand, I consider a property over-developed when it has more bricks and mortar and finishings on it than can be made to yield a reasonable return. The \$900 estimate I have made in this case is what I should consider a fair and sufficient outlay for the purposes intended. The second house of this claim, the larger one, I value at \$4,300. It is in good condition and is 17½ feet wide. It is lighted on three sides and has a shop on the ground floor and the upper portion is used for dwelling purposes. The house is exceptionally well built and is, I should say, about ten years old. The rent, as returned by the assessor, was for 1892 \$35 and for 1893 \$31 per month; there was no return made for the smaller house. The Assessor assessed the rentals for the three years at \$340, \$320, and \$300. I have averaged the rent at \$31.66 a month, which gives for the year \$379.92. Deducting for repairs, Crown rent, taxes, and fire insurance, and capitalising at 7 per cent. for 14 years, although really it ought to be 12½ years, we should arrive at a value for the house of \$4,300. I make no deduction for depreciation by the wear of the house during the years of the capitalisation, for that is allowed for in the value given to the property to-day. And that is just where the value of a surveyor's services comes in. Almost any one can value a new house, but a house that is in good condition is good; it makes no difference whether it is old or new. Some people, in fact, much prefer a house that is well dried out and has stood the test of a few years' trial. If a house is in good condition and is properly cared for it will last the fourteen years of the compensation and probably even much longer. Adding then the 10 per cent. for compulsory sale gives \$4,730, which, added to the \$2,620, makes \$7,350, including the 10 per cent. The house is in a thoroughly sanitary condition. In making the valuation of 57, Square Street, I follow the same method and make the same deductions as I have in the other ordinary cases and as has been followed in the colony for years. In some houses it would make no difference whether there were mezzanine floors or not, where one person takes a whole floor, for he then subdivides it to suit the conveniences of his family; it only affects houses used for coolie lodgings, and in those it will be very difficult to prevent overcrowding, for they will put in bunks, cubicles, and other devices. No Chinaman will sleep on the floor, not even under the new Ordinance. I do not allow in these estimates for concreting the floors. The property now belongs

to the Government and it will have to provide for this.

Chan Kwai, landlord of the property, was then called as witness and said—I was offered verbally by Mr. Palmer \$2,600 for the one piece, but did not care to sell as I had fitted it up to suit for my business. I bought it five years ago and paid \$2,200 for it with the house on it. The same year I also bought the corner house and paid \$3,180 for it.

Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, was then called as a witness and stated that he had examined the property 57, Square Street, and he found that the rentals returned for 1893-1894 amounted to \$380 and that the rentals for the big house for three years were respectively \$340, \$320, and \$300, and the little house \$140 for each year; therefore, calling the large house \$300 and the small one \$140, the total rent would be \$440 per annum; deducting \$10 for the sundry items embraced in the Crown rent and so forth would leave a net rental of \$350, which, at twelve years' purchase, would amount to \$4,200, from which should be deducted \$100 that it would be necessary to expend on the property to put it in a sanitary condition.

At this point a general discussion arose between the members of the Board and the representatives of the Government as to whether the Government had not represented the very worst side of some of these tenements, the Board saying that at the first session the Government had brought in witnesses concerning the worst rookeries in the colony and these they hardly thought fair average illustrations of the coolie lodging houses. The special cases to which the Board referred were three witnesses introduced by the Government at the first session, who testified that one, a coolie, who lived at 44, Market Street, had one of these places to sleep in and paid only 2 cents a month. He said he earned 150 cash a day, when work was good, but other days only 80 or 40 cash. A coolie woman also appeared and said that she and her husband had a cockloft where they lived and paid 40 cents a month for the two. Another coolie, who was more of a capitalist, deposed that he had a room for himself and wife and two children on the ground floor for which he paid one dollar a month.

Mr. Cooper then said that the Government could produce any kind of specimens the Board might care to see, but that these were fair representatives of that class among which the plague had been most destructive and who were the tenants of these cheap overcrowded places and were those it was most necessary to guard against as they were the most apt to introduce and spread contagion. He then continued his description of the property and said that No. 57, Square Street, had three storeys, which by mezzanines had been converted into six, and No. 65 had two storeys that had been made into four by the same process. The cubic capacity of No. 57 was 31,000 cubic feet, which at 3 cents a cubic foot for construction would make \$930, but he estimated its present value at \$498. The cubic capacity of No. 65 was 15,700 feet and would cost to construct \$470 and its present value he estimated to be \$263. He thought the depreciation of No. 57 was fully 25 per cent, and that of No. 65 at least 40 per cent. He estimated the value of the ground of No. 57 at \$2 per square foot and of No. 65 at \$1.80. He then entered upon a long statement of the value of property all around this property as found from sales and other entries in the public records, showing that property in that vicinity varied from \$1 to over \$5. He considered these houses were a bad case of overcrowding, there being 46,700 cubic feet, which, less one-third for walls, flooring, and other parts of building, furnishing and personal effects, left 31,000 cubic feet of air, which divided by 400, the amount specified in the new Ordinance, gives accommodation for 30 persons, which at \$4 per head per year would return \$320 gross, less 13 per cent. for taxes \$41.60, collection expenses at 5 per cent. \$16, fire insurance 1 per cent. on \$440 \$4.40, and 3 1/2 per cent. for repairs, making \$120, leaving a net income of \$200, which would make at a two years' valuation \$2,400, but there were really other deductions that should be made, reducing it to \$2,340. There are cubicles and short floors that do not comply with the law and must be taken into account, which will cost something and will necessarily reduce the rentals. The floors also have to be covered with concrete. It would cost \$400 to \$500 to repair the houses as they now stand. He

said that his valuation had been made recently and that doubtless the houses had depreciated considerably through standing open and vacant since the plague. These houses, he also said, were supposed to be part of that block in which no cases of plague were reported.

This terminated the proceedings of the day and the Court adjourned until to-day (Monday).

The Taipingshan Arbitration Board met again on Monday and gave its award in the five claims that were under consideration last week.

The Chairman stated the awards as follows:—

A. J. May (Leong Chi Woon) claimed \$3,754, the Government offered \$4,389, and the Board awarded \$5,000.

S. G. Bird claimed \$6,600, the Government offered \$2,691, the Board awarded \$4,700.

China Fire Insurance Co. (Yu Chiu Ham) claimed \$7,150, the Government offered \$5,355, and the Board awarded \$5,800.

Clement Palmer claimed \$23,000, the Government offered \$8,662, the Board awarded \$14,000.

Chan Kwai claimed \$7,392, the Government offered \$3,339, the Board awarded \$4,600.

His Lordship—In order to facilitate the progress of this inquiry and to bring the claimants and the Government closer together in the hope that by so doing the Board will not have to inquire into every case, we beg to state that, broadly speaking, the Board is of opinion that in order to arrive at a fair compensation the rental should be taken. The heavy fall of rentals from 1892-1894 must prepare claimants for some loss, and we should in every future case have clear evidence of the rental returns made to the assessor for the last three years. From the rentals should be deducted—Crown rent; insurance 1 per cent. net; taxes; annual repairs 5 per cent. on value of house exclusive of foundations. The Board will not overlook insanitary conditions or abnormal rents, but, on the other hand, the fact of forcible resumption will not be lost sight of. These are general rules, leaving to the Board full discretion to deal with each case on its own merits.

Mr. V. H. Deacon—I appear for Mr. May, and I make application for costs.

His Lordship—With these first five cases we are not inclined to refuse costs, but having given these general rules we reserve the right to refuse costs where we think the claim is exorbitant.

Mr. Deacon—How many years' purchase are we to value at? Do you leave that for each case?

His Lordship—It may be for 12 or 14 years.

Mr. Shelton Hooper, Secretary, Land Investment Co.—I am mortgagee in Mr. May's case, and I would ask the Board to make out the apportionment.

His Lordship—No doubt that will be made in the forms of the Board. Give a note of your claim to Mr. Seth and it will be attended to.

The Board adjourned till Thursday next, at 12 o'clock.

DEATH FROM AN OVERDOSE OF MORPHIA.

A sad death occurred at the Hongkong Hotel on Friday morning. Baron de Grandmaison, who arrived here from Madagascar recently and who intended joining Prince Henri d'Orléans in his travels in south-western China and the surrounding countries, but in consequence of illness came on to Hongkong for treatment, died from an overdose of morphia, which he had been in the habit of taking hypodermically for the relief of pain. It appears that he attended the theatre on Wednesday evening to see Miss F. Adair's performance. On his return he retired to his room at the Hotel, and in the morning was discovered to be suffering from the symptoms of opium poisoning. Medical assistance was summoned and he was attended throughout Thursday and during the whole of the night by Dr. Hartigan and Dr. Stedman, with two of the sisters from the French convent as nurses. All efforts to revive him proved, however, ineffectual, and he died about five o'clock on Friday morning. The deceased gentleman was only twenty-six years of age and was in the enjoyment, it is said, of a private income of £10,000 a year.

THE INQUEST.

Mr. H. E. Wodehouse opened an inquiry at the Magistracy on Saturday into the circumstances connected with the death at the Hongkong Hotel of the Baron de Grandmaison on the 28th inst.

Mr. Bourgeois, French Vice-Consul, occupied a seat on the bench.

Alexander Cumming Hutton Potts, clerk, Messrs. Rowe and Co., Canton, stated—On Thursday morning between 11.30 and 12 o'clock I went to the room of the deceased in the Hongkong Hotel. I knew he was staying there. The boy was sitting at the door. I knocked and got no answer. I left a chit for the defendant saying I would be back. I thought I heard snoring, and believed the deceased was sleeping. I returned about 12.40. The door was still locked. The boy was sitting on the floor. He had secured the key somehow. The boy opened the door. I entered. I saw the deceased lying in his bed with his head on one side, and a lot of stuff coming out of his mouth. He appeared to have been very sick, and was looking ghastly. I at once rushed to the Club and went for the doctor. The Baron was alive, but was breathing heavily. Mr. Nicolle went with me to the Hotel. Dr. Hartigan came about five minutes after. The Baron was in the same position and condition as when I left. Dr. Hartigan sent me to his office for a bag; I also went for Dr. Jordan, but he was out. After this I saw the deceased at intervals until nearly 2 o'clock next morning. The Baron remained unconscious all the time. About a quarter past 5 o'clock I received a message to go down to his room and found he was dead. I had known the deceased eight or ten days. He told me his name was Baron de Grandmaison. He told me he had come from Saigon, and was going to travel with the Prince d'Orléans later on. The Prince had seen Chinn, he said, and he had not, so it had been arranged that he was to visit China and join the Prince later on. He did not say he had come to Hongkong for medical treatment. He said he suffered from his kidneys and had been treated for more than a year. He said he had not experienced pain for some time, but he was feeling ill again. He dined with me at my sister's house at the Peak. He said he was feeling great pain and I could see he was getting very ill. He said if he possibly could he must get some morphia. I went with him to Messrs. Watson and Co. He asked for morphia. That was about midnight of Christmas Eve. He said he was suffering great pain with his kidneys and that he had been in the habit of using this morphia himself. He was refused it at first. He then said if a doctor could be found he would prefer to be treated by him. He telephoned to Dr. Hartigan, who was out, and then telephoned to Dr. Stedman, who said he would be down shortly. I did not see him again. We got the morphia at the Dispensary, and were given the telephone numbers of Drs. Hartigan and Stedman. We telephoned from the Hotel. The Baron was given a small bottle (produced in Court).

Dr. Stedman stated—On Christmas morning, between 12 and 12.30 I was telephoned for. I went to the Hongkong Hotel, and went to the room of the deceased. I saw the deceased in bed. He said he was in pain, in the loins, and described his symptoms, but he did not then appear to be in great pain. From the description he gave me I concluded he was suffering from gravel. The small bottle of morphia was standing on a chest beside his bed. The bottle, I think, was wrapped up when I first saw it and appeared to be full. He told me he had got it in order that there might be no delay when I came. I asked him how he had been able to get it, as I thought it was a curious thing that he had got it, because a doctor never goes to an urgent case without taking morphia with him. He asked me what the strength was compared with the French solution and I told him the strength and how many drops I was giving him. The strength was 1 grain in 10 drops; the ordinary dose would be three or four drops. The letters on the bottle denoted that the solution had been made up in accordance with the British Pharmacopoeia. I should think there were 24 grains of morphia in the bottle. I asked him how much he had been in the habit of using, and he said one or two centigrammes. I injected three drops into the skin of the loin—1/10ths of a grain. He told me he had a syringe, but I did not use it and used my own. I then left him before the morphia took effect. I saw him again about 11 o'clock—ten hours later. He said the pain had been relieved by the injection and that he had got a good night's sleep. I asked him if I should come and see him again and he said, "No; he

felt so well that I need not visit him again unless he sent for me." I next saw him on the 27th about 2 p.m. He was then completely unconscious and Dr. Hartigan was with him. My impression was that he was suffering from morphine poisoning. Dr. Hartigan and I relieved each other until he died. We applied antipyrine, strychnine, and strong coffee, and as his temperature went up very high we used iced cloths to keep down the fever. We were trying to keep him alive until the effects of the morphine could be counteracted. Morphine tends to paralyse the nerve centres, more especially the respiratory centres. The general treatment is to stimulate the breathing. He was not heard snoring unconsciously till between 12 and 1 o'clock, so we supposed he had taken the morphine between 10 and 11 o'clock. At 1 o'clock, Dr. Hartigan found him almost dying. One point of interest I might mention. The point where he inserted the needle was plainly visible. I saw him while he was under the influence of the morphine. We looked to see where he had injected the morphine. We had his clothes thrown back to give him plenty of air and to apply the battery. The puncture of the needle was on the upper part of the abdominal wall.

His Worship—Do you wish to make any remarks about the case? I think you said you considered it irregular for the Dispensary to supply the morphia in this way.

Dr. Stedman—I did not make any such remark, sir; I asked him, I said, how he came to be supplied.

His Worship—Do you consider it, as a medical practitioner, wrong to supply the drug in these circumstances?

Dr. Stedman—No; I do not think I do in the circumstances. The man was in urgent pain.

His Worship—You do not think blame is attaching to the Dispensary for supplying the drug.

Dr. Stedman—No; I do not think so under the circumstances. It was very late at night and—

His Worship—Not even in the quantity contained in that bottle. Do you consider there is any blame attaching to the Dispensary from your point of view as a medical practitioner?

Dr. Stedman—I really can't say. I am unable to answer the question.

His Worship—I am asking your opinion.

Dr. Stedman—Well, I should say he got the usual amount.

His Worship—Are the instructions contained on the bottle?

Dr. Stedman—The bottle has the label "Hypodermic Solution of Morphia, B.P." No instructions appear on the bottle except as they are understood by a medical man.

His Worship—In serving it out to a medical man, ought the instructions to be on the bottle?

Dr. Stedman—I do not think so. I think "Poison—Hypodermic Solution of Morphia" carries sufficient instruction.

His Worship—Nobody would understand that except a medical man?

Dr. Stedman—Except people who were in the habit of taking morphia.

His Worship—But he was a Frenchman. He would not understand what "B.P." meant. Ought not the quantity to be used to be shown on the bottle?

Dr. Stedman—I would not say it ought not to be, but it is not usual.

His Worship—The amount that might be taken with safety depends on the length of time it has been taken?

Dr. Stedman—Yes.

His Worship—Would you consider the dose you prescribed for him a considerable dose for an ordinary person?

Dr. Stedman—It was the ordinary dose for anybody.

His Worship—Supposing a man was used to it, how much might he extend the dose to?

Dr. Stedman—I think almost without limit, if he gradually increases it.

Dr. Hartigan stated—I was called in to see the deceased about 12.20 p.m. on the 27th inst. I had not seen him before. I found him lying in bed with his pyjamas open. His trousers and hair brush were lying on the bed near. He was breathing very heavily; completely unconscious, his face livid, his mouth covered with froth and some vomited matter. His pulse could not be felt, and his heart could just be heard. He was on the point of death. I found the pupils of

his eyes were contracted to a pin-point. From his general symptoms I came to the conclusion that he was suffering from opium poisoning. On looking about the room I found the bottle of solution of morphia and a hypodermic needle case. It contained a spare needle. On the small table near the bed was the hypodermic syringe with the needle on it. It appeared to have been used, as the piston was drawn out and the barrel moist. Later on, Dr. Stedman and I found a puncture of an injection which might have been made within an hour or two. There was an older puncture. I think the more recent puncture must have been made within six hours from the time I saw him. I examined the bottle and should say about 30 drops had been taken from it. I was with him when he died at 5.20 yesterday morning. I would say that death might have been caused by an overdose of morphia, but it might have been accelerated (or that the effect of the morphia was intensified) by the kidney disease from which the deceased was suffering. When I first saw the deceased his temperature was subnormal; five hours later it had risen to 107°. It remained at that for half-an-hour, and then dropped to 104°. It remained at 104 to 105 until about an hour before his death, when it went up to 106°. It was at that when he died. The inference I draw is that death might have been due to uric poisoning. The effects of the morphia were complicated by that. Both act in the same way. I do not think there is any necessity to hold an autopsy.

His Worship—There is evidence to show that the morphia was obtained from the Dispensary. Have you any remarks to make? Is there any blame attaching to the Dispensary for selling the morphia to deceased?

Dr. Hartigan—I think it is not desirable that anybody going in should be able to get morphia.

His Worship—Having got it, was there any objection to leaving it with him?

Dr. Hartigan—We cannot say. He said he was in the habit of using it. I could not have taken it upon myself to remove it. The risk lies with the man himself.

His Worship—It is not uncommon for private individuals to have supplies of morphia—people in the habit of taking it?

Dr. Hartigan—I should think it is uncommon. It is a very bad practice. Of course, I understand this man was sent abroad and that he was in the habit of taking morphia, and the doctor might have allowed him to have morphia as he was going where he might not be able to get medical attendance. It is not a good thing, as a general rule, for people to have a hypodermic syringe.

H. G. Stevens stated—I am a chemist at the Hongkong Dispensary, Messrs A. S. Watson & Co. I remember the deceased coming to the Dispensary on the night of Christmas eve. He came about midnight. He came with Mr. Potts. The deceased was in great pain. They wanted to know if I could do anything for him. He appeared to me to be suffering from colic—he used a French term which I did not understand. He asked me to let him have some morphia as it had been used when he had similar attacks. I refused at the time, and told Mr. Potts it was against the Morphia Ordinance.

His Worship—It is only right to tell you that in giving evidence you are at liberty to refuse to give evidence which you are of opinion might incriminate you.

Witness—Thank you. I could see he was in great pain, and supplied him with the morphia on the condition that it was used by a medical man. Otherwise I would not have given it to him. I supplied him with half-an-ounce and a syringe. The strength was 1 in 10. I gave him no instructions how to use it.

His Worship—What was your reason for giving the syringe?

Witness—Because I thought it would save time, as the doctor might not have brought his own one. Looking at the bottle, I would say about 30 minims had been used. I put on the bottle "Hypodermic Solution of Morphia, B.P.," that is to let the doctor know the strength. An ordinary person would not understand what "B.P." meant.

The evidence of the Chinese servant of the deceased was then taken.

W. M. Wood, Chartered Mercantile Bank, stated that the deceased told him he was going to take a sleeping draught.

His Worship adjourned the inquiry for further medical evidence till Monday at 11 a.m.

At the Magistracy on Monday Mr. H. E. Woodhouse resumed the inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the Baron de Grandmason at the Hongkong Hotel on the 27th December.

Mr. Bourgeois, the French Vice Consul, was again present.

Dr. Stedman (recalled) stated—I did not know the deceased bought the syringe at the Dispensary. I thought he had brought it with him. The syringe is capable of holding 20 drops. It is marked down the piston rod. A Continental syringe would be marked in the same way, but probably with different measurements. I have never seen one myself. I do not think he would have made a mistake because of the markings on the syringe. Assuming he made a mistake I think I could explain how it may have occurred. The French hypodermic solution of morphia is weaker than the English B.P. in the relation of 5 to 12, and therefore you would need to administer a larger quantity of fluid to administer an equivalent dose of morphia. If therefore the deceased thought the solution was the same strength as the French, he would give himself the larger quantity of fluid, but would get more morphia than he intended in the proportion of 12 to 5. I explained to him the difference in the strength. He must either have forgotten what I said to him or taken the overdose intentionally. I imagine he may have taken about 1½ grains of morphia or 12 minims. That was sufficient to produce death. We found in the post-mortem examination of the body that one kidney was almost entirely disorganised, that is to say, it was incapable of discharging its proper functions. Morphia acts more energetically and continuously when the kidneys are not performing their proper functions.

His Worship—Is there any means of ascertaining whether the kidneys are performing their ordinary functions?

Dr. Stedman—In some cases, yes; in this case, no.

His Worship—Why not in this case?

Dr. Stedman—Because there was no urine in the bladder from the diseased kidney. The chief indications of kidney during life are obtained from analysis of the urine, but it is possible that one kidney is discharging its proper functions and no true indication would be obtained. I did not make any analysis. Disease of the kidney is the secondary formation of gravel. The existence of gravel does not necessarily indicate kidney disease. If I knew a patient was suffering from kidney disease, I would administer morphia with greater caution.

His Worship—As a medical practitioner, would you leave morphia in a patient's possession?

Dr. Stedman—Yes, I should. For the reason that it is the patient's property, and I have no more right to take away morphia than a man's revolver.

His Worship—I am not talking about taking away property. It was never suggested, was it?

Dr. Stedman—No, never.

His Worship—You say that if you had the knowledge that the kidneys were diseased you would administer morphia with greater caution; would you still leave it with him to administer himself?

Dr. Stedman—It never occurred to me that he had been in the habit of using it himself. He sent for me at midnight to administer it for him. Personally, I never order morphia for a patient; I carry it about with me and give it to the patient. But if the patient carries it about himself—and in this case the deceased informed me that he was in the habit of carrying it about with him, that he left the bottle at Saigon, and I gathered from his conversation that he was not in the habit of administering it himself but merely carried it with him to save time. It never occurred to me to think of taking his morphia away. Even if I had known his kidneys were diseased it would not have occurred to me to take the morphia away. The deceased being in urgent pain on the morning he took his fatal dose and believing he was using the same solution he had been in the habit of using he might have given himself a stronger dose, which he might have done with safety in the French solution. Even if he had given himself half a grain of the English solution it might not have injured him.

His Worship—How did you diagnose the case?

Dr. Stedman—As one of gravel in the kidneys.

Dr. Hartigan (recalled) stated—I made a *post-mortem* examination on the body of the deceased yesterday, along with Dr. Marques and Dr. Stedman. We found the organs of the body in a healthy state with the exception of the left kidney, which was simply a bag full of fluid; all the substance was gone. The right kidney was about its normal size, but deeply congested. We knew from its appearance that the right kidney had been doing the work of both kidneys. I am of opinion that the immediate cause of death was asphyxia and coma. I believe it was caused by narcotic poisoning. I could not find any distinct signs of uricemic poisoning, but I believe the state of the kidney contributed to death. Had it not been for the narcotic poisoning the man might have gone on living for a long time, if there was no accident to the remaining kidney. The disease of the kidney must have been of over two years' standing. I did not find any gravel or stone, but the state of the kidney must have been caused by gravel. I have heard the evidence of Dr. Stedman.

His Worship—Have you any remarks to make on it?

Dr. Hartigan—No. I did not detect any traces of alcohol either before or after death. In the case of an overdose of morphia we look for a low temperature; but the height of the temperature in this case was due to urimia. That is only conjecture. It could not be due to the remedies applied. While in attendance on the deceased I drew off some urine from the bladder and found it showed the kidney was very much congested then, but not necessarily disease of the kidney. Morphia poisoning would have produced congestion even in a healthy kidney. In my opinion it was quite the proper thing for the doctor to administer morphia even if the kidneys were diseased. It is usual to administer morphia if the patient is in great pain. Under the circumstances, as I found the morphia there when I was called in, and he was a stranger and had been in the habit of using it, I considered it right to leave the morphia; but if he had been a regular patient of mine I would never have thought of taking morphia there and leaving it with him.

Dr. Marques also gave evidence of the *post-mortem* examination.

His Worship—I am sorry that the dispensation of this morphia, which was evidently dispensed in perfectly good faith, has led to this sad fatality. There has no doubt been a distinct breach of the local law in so dispensing the drug, and it must be some satisfaction to the dispenser to find that no use was made of the drug until after a medical practitioner had been called in. With regard to the facts of the case, there appears to me to be little doubt that the deceased took this overdose of morphia accidentally, that it was not taken with the intention of committing suicide, and that when it was taken, deceased was in sound mind. My finding therefore is that he died from an overdose of morphia, self-administered, the dose being probably due to accident.

REVIEWS.

Hanlin Papers. Second Series. By W. A. P. MARTIN, D.D., LL.D., President of the Tung Wen College, Peking, Shanghai and Hongkong: Kelly and Walsh Limited.

THIS volume of essays on the history, philosophy, and religion of the Chinese is the second Dr. Martin has published under the same title, and it is dedicated to Sir Robert Hart as trustee and patron of the College over which the veteran author presides. The collection of papers before us is an interesting and valuable one, being, as the author tells us in his introduction, "the slow growth of years," each one having sprung from his spontaneous inclination, and giving the results of his special studies.

The Chinese, Dr. Martin maintains, have chronicles rather than histories; the native writers fail to grasp the great fact that China was conquered by the Chinese race, who have gradually absorbed and assimilated the aborigines until the Empire has become practically homogeneous, the few remaining tribes of Manchu in Kweichow and Szechuen and the aborigines in Formosa alone attesting the existence of earlier inhabitants. The three great movements or epochs in Chinese history are rightly regarded by Dr. Martin as (1) the conquest of China by the

Chinese; (2) the conquest of China by the Tartars; and (3) the struggle between the centripetal and centrifugal forces of the empire. The latter, it may be remarked, is still going on and it has had no slight influence on the course of the present disastrous war with Japan. The paper on the history of China viewed from the Great Wall is very instructive, and, like the one following on "Tartar Tribes in China," has special interest for the observer of events now that the grasp of the Manchus on the empire seems threatened. The paper devoted to the career of the celebrated Emperor Liu Pei, the restorer of the Han dynasty, entitled "A Hero of the Three Kingdoms," reads like a chapter from a romance and will be perused with interest by any reader.

The papers on International Law and diplomacy in Ancient China have a special value at the present time, when China is in need of statesmen versed in modern diplomacy. The papers on Chinese philosophy and religion are more in the way of the student, but they ought to be thoughtfully perused by all those who settle in China whether for purposes of trade or as teachers of Western learning, or as propagators of the Christian faith. In his article on the worship of ancestors, Dr. Martin has a special word for the missionaries. He says, referring to the hostile attitude adopted by missionaries to this custom:—"As long as missionaries manifest a determination to pluck the keystone out of China's social fabric, so long will the innumerable clans that form the nation, rallying round the altars of their forefathers, form an impregnable phalanx, barring at every point the ingress of a disintegrating doctrine. As long as the neophyte is called on, like Caius Torranus, to prove his devotion by betraying his fathers, so long will the Christian community continue to be a despised caste, apart from the life of the people, and receiving accessions chiefly from pariahs, who set no value on family connections." He suggests that, instead of persevering in a hopeless task, the missionaries should refrain from any direct or indiscriminate attack on the native mode of honouring ancestors, leaving reformation of the system to the influence of Divine Truth, when it gets a firmer hold on the national mind. The missionaries will doubtless reply that while ancestor worship remains, the Divine Truth can get no hold on the national mind. This is a large question which the missions must be left to fight out according to their own views; but there is no possible doubt that ancestor worship is a signal stumbling block in the path of progress generally.

An interesting paper on "The Lusad and the opening of the East," brings the series proper to a close, but there is a small appendix made up of poetical translations.

Chinese Legends and other Poems. By Dr. W. A. P. MARTIN. Hongkong and Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh Limited.

As the author tells us, this little volume is properly an appendix to the "Hanlin Papers," two of the poems having been included in the first series, and the rest excluded from the second series. The principal pieces are free translations from the Chinese, the sentiment of which is better, perhaps, than the versification. The translations are excellent; but we have seen some of them in a better dress, notably that entitled "Almanac a Legend of Peking," which has been done into very musical lines by Mr. Stent. A Chinese "Raven," the Fu-nis, or bird of Fate, is interesting as showing many points of similarity to Poe's celebrated poem, which Dr. Martin was evidently unable to keep out of his mind when putting the Chinese version into English verse and says as much in a footnote in anticipation of criticism. Some of the odes are pithy and well expressed, though here and there rather wanting in rhythm. As a specimen of one of the best we quote "The White Monitor," from the Book of Odes, 500 B.C.:

A speck upon your ivory fan
You soon may wipe away;
But stains upon the heart or tongue
Remain, alas! for aye.

The latter portion of the collection is made up of translations from the German and French and one or two original pieces.

A telegram to the *Mercury* dated Yokohama, 19th December, states that a Japanese cruiser whilst outside Weihaiwei captured a sailing vessel loaded with arms, ammunition, and provisions. These were addressed to Admiral Ting.

RUMOURS OF BUBONIC PLAGUE IN AMOY CONTRADICTED.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

Amoy, 15th December, 1894.

Sir,—It has been stated at a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board that plague had broken out in Amoy, and a report to that effect sent to his Excellency the Governor.

The probable result of this report will be that Amoy will be quarantined by the authorities of Hongkong and the Straits Settlements, such a step being natural enough were there proof or even well-founded suspicions of the existence of plague here.

We believe the report to be unfounded, and would ask your kind help, in the interests of our common trade, in laying before your Government the reasons on which we found our belief that no plague exists here.

No doubt a board of the intelligence of the Hongkong Sanitary Board has acted on what it considers reliable information. We have no knowledge whence that information was derived, but apparently it does not emanate from the medical officers of the port, nor from H.B.M. Consul. These officials declare the port clean, and issue clean bills of health, the subject comes under their official duty, and as far as we are aware no other source of intelligence exists worthy of the least credence.

To place you in possession of all the information we have on the subject, it will suffice to enclose copies of our letter of 14th instant to Dr. MacDongall, the Health Officer of the port, and of his reply dated this day.

We believe H.B.M. Consul makes a report on the same subject to the Governor of Hongkong, and we rely on your invariable courtesy and zeal for the general interests of trade to make such communication to your Government as you may consider justified by the information contained in the enclosures referred to.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT H. BRUCE,

Chairman,

Amoy Chamber of Commerce.

Honourable J. J. Keswick, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c., Hongkong.

Amoy, 14th December, 1894.

Dr. MacDongall, M.D., &c., &c.,

Amoy.

Dear Sir,—The Chamber of Commerce here proposes to address the Chamber in Hongkong denying the existence of any authentic evidence of plague at this port, and requesting the latter Chamber to make such representations to the Hongkong Government as may be called for in accordance with the proof we may be able to bring forward that plague does not exist.

You are no doubt aware that Chinese report a high death rate in the city just now, and that Roman Catholic missionaries, whose knowledge of the people entitles their opinions to some weight, express their belief that the prevalent sickness is bubonic plague. On the other hand, you grant clean Bills of Health, and we understand that although you have taken exceptional pains to discover a case of plague, you have, so far, not been successful.

We would, therefore, feel much obliged if you could hand us a letter, which we can forward to Hongkong and Singapore, stating your opinion as to this rumour of plague, and your reasons for holding such opinion.—Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBERT H. BRUCE,

Chairman,

Amoy Chamber of Commerce.

Amoy, Dec. 15th, 1894.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday I beg to state that I have not seen a case of plague in Amoy. Dr. Wingate and the missionary doctors inform me that they have not seen any cases. Dr. Wingate and myself have a large native hospital for the treatment of poor Chinese. We also have some private practice amongst the natives in the city, so that the existence of any serious epidemic is hardly likely to escape our notice. Soon after bubonic plague was known to exist in Hongkong rumours of its presence here commenced. I was very anxious to see a case, if I could, so I offered my native hospital assistants and some native doctors a reward of \$5 to the first man who could show me a case. This led to many invitations to see patients in the city. These were all visited, but no plague found, I may say

that my offer is still open. A great deal of typhoid fever has prevailed here for the last two or three months and the death rate has been higher in consequence. I cannot, of course, swear that no case of plague has occurred in Amoy, but I can and do say that with all my opportunities for observation, and after diligent search for the same, I have failed to find any. Knowing the extreme filthiness of the native city of Amoy, and the entire absence of any sanitary regulations, it seems to me very improbable that such an epidemic can have existed all these months without, by this time, having assumed such alarming proportions as to render its existence beyond doubt or question.—I am, dear sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) H. MACDONAGALL, M.B.
R. H. Bruce, Esq., Chairman, Amoy Chamber of Commerce.

SUPREME COURT.

24th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

TANG KIT SHANG v. NG PAK TO.

This was an action to recover \$749 capital and interest due from defendant to plaintiff for money lent by plaintiff to defendant on the 30th November, 1893, payment of which was secured by a promissory note for \$500 and a deposit receipt for \$200.

Mr. H. L. Dennys appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) for the defendant.

The loan arose in this way. Tang Kit Shang was a partner with Chan Kit and with Smith Alliston in the firm name of Alliston & Co. and in November, 1893, agreed to sell his share to Ng Pak To for \$3,700, made up as follows: \$500 balance of \$2,500 capital that Tang Kit Shang had to pay the firm; \$2,000 cash, paid by cheque handed to Tang Kit Shang, on December 23rd, 1893; \$500 in a promissory note given by Kwan Koi Chun's son in favour of Ng Pak To and transferred to Tang Kit Shang; a \$700 loan secured by a promissory note of \$500 for a year given by Ng Pak To to Tang Kit Shang, and by a \$200 loan to be repaid in a short time, for which a deposit note was given, the total of these various forms of payment thus making \$3,700. Afterwards a formal deed of dissolution was endorsed on the original partnership deed and Mr. Alliston gave three notes, one for \$4,700 to Ng Pak To; one for \$2,500, representing Chun Kit's capital in the business; and one for \$2,500 to Tang Kit Shang as representing his share of the capital. This note of \$2,500 was endorsed to Tang Kit Shang and handed over to Ng Pak To. Alliston having now failed, Ng Pak To claims no consideration passed. Plaintiff sues for the balance due him of \$700, with interest and costs.

Defendant answered that the suit was premature, having been brought three days before the maturity of the obligation, and also that the debt was worthless because made by a minor; Mr. Francis quoting Chitty on Practice of the Queen's Bench 1187 and other authorities.

The plaintiff maintained that the time of bringing the suit was immaterial, for the defendant, through his counsel, had written a letter denying that he was in any way indebted on account of these notes. The plaintiff also urged that the infancy law of England did not apply on account of Ordinance 14 of 1873, section 11.

After the examination of the witnesses, the defendant's counsel waived all other points and confined himself to an argument of the infancy clauses of the Ordinances here, and maintained they were not intended to conflict with the law at home, but were to grant, in certain cases, a privilege of procedure for minors, but not to exempt them from the operation of the law.

His Lordship reserved judgment.

29th December.

His Lordship, in delivering judgment, said—Three defences were set up in this case—first, the plea of infancy, secondly, want of consideration, and third, that there was no cause of action, at the date of issuing the writ, with regard to the sum of \$500, as the year for which it had

been lent had not yet expired. At the hearing the plea of want of consideration was withdrawn. It was admitted that the defendant was a minor. There can be no doubt in the absence of special legislation to the contrary the plea of infancy would be valid and sound. But Mr. Dennys states that there is special legislation in this colony to the contrary, and he referred to section 11 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, No. 14 of 1873. He further states that on the face of this section the defence of infancy cannot be pleaded. Mr. Francis, on the other hand, held that this section referred to procedure only, and that it did not prevent him from setting up the plea of infancy. However, on looking over the language of the Ordinance, I do not think it is meant to be confined to procedure only, but is meant to extend the jurisdiction to the cheaper and more practical form. I am of opinion that the Legislature intended that the plea of infancy should not be set up, and I think they have expressed that clearly enough in the section. I therefore hold that the plea of infancy fails in this case. The other line of defence is that there is no cause of action with regard to this \$500 promissory note. The note is not payable for a year, and there is not the slightest doubt the writ was taken out before the year had expired. I think that is a good defence. Mr. Dennys states there was an absolute repudiation of all liability under that promissory note and that he was therefore entitled to sue at any time. I am of opinion, however, that the defence is good in respect of the \$500, and I therefore give judgment for the \$200, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. from the date of the lending of the money to the date of judgment.

Mr. Dennys asked that he should be non-suited on the promissory note that he might not be debarred from taking further action.

Mr. Francis asked that no costs should be granted to either side.

His Lordship said costs would go to the plaintiff on the \$200.

31st December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

MOUTRIE v. MCCABE.

This case, which has been before the Court for some time, through successive adjournments, was finally taken up to-day and ended, with the exception of the judgment, which was reserved, as His Lordship said the case had been dragging along so that he had almost forgotten some of the details and would have to refresh his memory of them.

Mr. H. L. Dennys appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. Hastings, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office, for the defendant.

Mr. McCabe and Mr. Robinson testified as to the accounts and in many particulars disputed the statements of Mr. Moutrie. A letter was placed in evidence from Mr. Moutrie speaking, at the time of the dissolution of the partnership between Mr. Robinson and Mr. Moutrie, in the highest terms of Mr. McCabe and wishing him much success in his new association with Mr. Robinson. Other letters were put in from Mr. Robinson to Mr. Moutrie suggesting that while Mr. McCabe might be doing nothing wrong the firm was suffering from his rather too rapid living. All parties seem the whole time to have been conscious of these so-called excessive travelling and living expenses of Mr. McCabe, and Mr. McCabe steadily protested against their charging them up to him after they had been practically recognised by the firm as correct. Mr. Robinson admitted the fairness of Mr. McCabe's protest with regard to several of the items, agreeing that it was impossible to lodge decently in Kobe for the \$15 to which Mr. Moutrie wished to reduce him.

Judgment reserved.

A telegraphic despatch to the *Mercury* dated Chinkiang, 27th December, says:—Mr. Commissioner Moorhead, the Generalissimo of the Lower Yangtze, arrived here at 9 o'clock last night. To-day he has been hard at work distributing his newly engaged European drill instructors at the different forts between here and Nanking and Kiangyin.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Tramway Company was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son, on Thursday. There were present, Messrs. J. D. Humphreys (Chairman), J. Orange (member of Consulting Committee), H. Humphreys, R. Lyall, A. H. Mancell, and Hart Buck.

Mr. HART BUCK read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and statement of accounts as read. I do not think there is anything in the statement of accounts that needs any special comment. We have been somewhat handicapped during the period under review by untoward circumstances. The plague, last of course, prevented numbers of travellers from visiting this port who would otherwise have done so, and the absence of the fleet from the colony during the last few months has of course made a material difference to our traffic receipts. Notwithstanding these drawbacks I am glad to be able to say that, in addition to keeping the permanent way in thorough repair and giving increased conveniences and comforts to the public, your General Managers have the satisfaction of being able to give you a dividend of 5 per cent. as against a 4 per cent. dividend the previous year and a 2 per cent. dividend the year before that. As far as we can foresee there will be little need of any extraordinary expenditure, and therefore we hope that, with the ordinary chance traffic which owing to exceptional circumstances we have been deprived of this year, we may reasonably look forward to still better results in the future. (Hear, hear.) If any one desires to ask me any questions I shall be happy to answer them.

No questions were asked, and the report and statement of accounts were passed, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MANCELL.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MANCELL, Messrs. Ewens, Orange, and Poon Pong were re-elected to the Consulting Committee for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. ORANGE seconded, that Mr. R. Lyall be re-elected audited. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN, in thanking the gentlemen present for their attendance, intimated that dividend warrants would be ready on Friday.

MAJOR BROTHERS, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Major Brothers, Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 22nd December.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. Thorburn) said—In proposing that the report and accounts as printed and published be passed, I have very little to say. At the shareholder's meeting held on the 17th, I gave the fullest particulars possible in connection with the working and prospects of your business. I explained at that meeting that although we had undergone many difficulties in the managing of your business during the past year, we are able to come before you with considerably more actual value in land, properties, and stocks of material than we possessed at the date of purchase from Messrs. Major, without adding anything for the goodwill, which cost us about 70,000 taels. The balance sheet before you proves that after writing down and revaluing our stocks we have assets amounting to Tls. 296,000 and liabilities of Tls. 39,000, leaving an actual balance of Tls. 257,000, against Tls. 208,000 bought from Messrs. Major without the goodwill, which is, of course, still our property. So that there is a realisable surplusage of Tls. 49,000 in favour of the company without the cost of goodwill at all. I must ask you further to bear in mind that the values of your properties as dealt with in the above showing are merely the amounts from the company's books for cost and that such amounts are much below the actual value of the same properties on the market. I again therefore repeat that, even taking the figures published in the balance sheet, the full paid-up capital of your company is more than intact. You will notice that under the heading of general charges there is an increase of Tls. 1,200. This has been chiefly brought about by our having more working

branches to our business, the hire of a go-down for our products and raw materials, and the legal fees in connection with the mortgage over our Hankow Road property. Our insurance premium is also higher, because we have the new mill and heavier stocks to protect. It will be apparent to you that the value set against house and landed properties, plant, and furniture is less this year than last. This difference arises from the sale of the match works, as the book costs in this connection have been eliminated. I think these are all the explanations I can afford you about the accounts, but if there is any further information I can give I shall be happy to do so. As no one had any questions to ask he then proposed:—"That the accounts as printed and published be passed. This was seconded by Mr. H. J. SUCM and carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr. W. G. MOORE and seconded by Mr. M. WOLFF that Mr. J. D. Thorburn be re-elected as a director for the current year.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. THORBURN then proposed and Mr. H. J. SUCM seconded that Mr. Wilmer Harris be re-elected as auditor for the current year and that his remuneration be as before £12. 200.

This finished the general business of the meeting.

Mr. MOORE made a few remarks as to the indebtedness of shareholders to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Thorburn for the present position of the company, which was responded to by Mr. THORBURN.

The meeting then adjourned, with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—*Mercury*.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS. 1894.

JANUARY.

- 1st—Volunteer field day at Hongkong.
- 8th—Hon. C. P. Chater re-elected a Member of the Hongkong Legislative Council by the Justices of the Peace.
- 9th—Fire in First Street, Hongkong, in which a sick man was burnt to death.—Mobilization of the Hongkong Garrison.
- 15th—Great fire at Soochow; 1,500 houses burnt.
- 18th—A committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce report in favour of a British dollar.—A private of the Hongkong Regiment shot a havildar, who subsequently died.
- 19th—Eight coolies killed by a fall of earth on Bonham Road, Hongkong.
- 24th—At a special meeting of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association a resolution was passed deprecating the appointment of Mr. W. V. Drummond as Acting Crown Advocate.
- 25th—Prize day at Victoria College.—A Burns dinner held at Kobe to inaugurate a St. Andrew's Society.
- 26th—Prize day at the Diocesan School.
- 30th—Annual meeting and dinner of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association.

FEBRUARY.

- 6th—Fire in a fire cracker shop, Queen's Road West, Hongkong; thirteen men and one girl burnt to death.—East Point Athletic Sports.
- 7th—Departure of H.E. Senhor Borja, the retiring Governor of Macao. An unknown steamer supposed to be the *St. Asaph* sunk by collision with the steamer *Hungchow*, off Breaker Point, and all hands lost.
- 9th—New Custom House at Shanghai opened.
- 14th—Fire at No. 28, Station Street, in which two children were burnt to death.
- 18th—Senhor Joao Antonio de Brissac das Neves Ferreira elected Deputy for Macao in the Portuguese Cortes.
- 19th—Marine Court of Inquiry with reference to the collision between the steamer *Hungchow* and an unknown steamer supposed to be the *St. Asaph*.—The M. M. steamer *Saigon*, engaged on the Tonkin branch line, went ashore on the rocks near Poulo-Cambir, and became a total wreck.
- 22nd—Hongkong Race Meeting, first day.
- 23rd—Hongkong Race Meeting, second day.
- 24th—Hongkong Race Meeting, third day.
- 26th—Masonic Ball at Hongkong.

MARCH.

- 1st—Debate at the Sanitary Board on a motion introduced by Mr. J. D. Humphreys recommending the reconstitution of the Board on a popular basis; motion negatived.—General

election in Japan; the Liberal party (Jin-to) gained a majority.

2nd—Great Chinese procession at Hongkong to celebrate the restoration of the Man Mo Temple.

3rd—Continuation of the Chinese procession at Hongkong; procession of illuminated sampans in the evening.

4th—Continuation of the Chinese procession at Hongkong.

7th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; decided to send a telegram of congratulation to the Emperor and Empress of Japan on the occasion of the celebration of their silver wedding; Bills to amend the Jury law and the Po Leung Kuk Ordinance read a first time.—The Blue Funnel steamer *Tantalus* struck on a reef off Table Island while making Hongkong from the North; got off on the 9th, considerably damaged.

8th—The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.'s tug *Pilot Fish* wrecked off Tam To while going out to the assistance of the stranded steamer *Tantalus*.

9th—Silver wedding of the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

10—Faction fights in Chinatown, Hongkong.

14th—Hongkong Schools Athletic Sports, first day.

15th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; motion for granting of exchange compensation negatived; appointment of a Retrenchment Committee announced; Bills for the Amendment of the Po Leung Kuk Ordinance and Jury Ordinance passed.—Hongkong Schools Athletic Sports, second day.

17th—New treaty between China and the United States signed at Washington.

19th—Abdoolah Khan, a private of the Hongkong Regiment, sentenced to death by the Supreme Court for the murder of Noor Mahomed, a havildar of the Regiment.—Intelligence received by telegram of the death at Bombay of Mr. Solomon David Sassoon.

22nd—Arrival of Captain de Souza Florita e Costa, the new Governor of Macao.—Meeting of Singapore Chamber of Commerce decided in favour of united action with Hongkong with reference to the proposal for a British dollar.

24th—Easter meeting of Hongkong Rifle Association, first day.

25th—Easter meeting of Hongkong Rifle Association, second day.

26th—Easter meeting of Hongkong Rifle Association, third day.

27th—Social tea and meeting at Union Church to bid farewell to the Rev. G. H. Bondfield.

28th—Assassination of the Korean political refugee Kim Ok Kiun at Shanghai.

30th—Collision at Shanghai between the steamers *Oxus* and *Glenchon*; damage slight.

31st—Living chess tournament at East Point on behalf of the Union Church organ fund.

APRIL.

1st—Corporal A. W. Jinks killed in a scuffle with bar boys at the Hongkong Hotel.

3rd—Two thousand houses destroyed by fire at Tungksadoo, Shanghai.

4th—Fire in Bonham strand, Hongkong; several houses burnt.—Tennis match between Meaden and Wallace, the Hongkong and Canton champions, resulted in a draw.—Departure of H.M.S. *Imperieuse* for home.

5th—Abdoolah Khan, a private of the Hongkong Regiment, executed for the murder of a havildar of the same regiment.

7th—Hongkong Polo Club's Sky Meeting.

9th—Horse, dog, and poultry show at Shanghai.

11th—Outbreak of rinderpest at Hongkong.

12th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; Bill for the amendment of the Prepared Opium Ordinance introduced.

14th—Laying of the cable between Singapore and Labuan completed.—Departure of the troopship *Tamar* from Hongkong with time expired men.—Inspection of Shanghai Volunteer Corps by Lieut.-Colonel Jerrard, D.A.A.G.

16th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Bill for the amendment of the Prepared Opium Ordinance passed, after the Opium Farmer had been heard by Counsel.

19th—The Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru* wrecked off Aylmer Bay.

20th—Frochet in the Han River did considerable damage at Hanyang.

21st—Arrival at Hongkong of H.M.S. *Centurion*, the new flagship of the China station.

24th—Hongkong and Singapore fired in the

Interport Rifle Match, Hongkong making 823 and Singapore 817. Shanghai fired on the 4th May and made 760.

25th—Lawn Tennis match between Canton and Hongkong; Canton won the double and one single, and Hongkong one single.—The British ship *Drumellian* stranded on Naganoshima; subsequently towed off by a number of British men-of-war.

30th—Fire in Queen's Road Central, Hongkong six houses destroyed.—Shanghai Races, first day.—Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, Colonial Secretary and Acting Governor, left Hongkong.—General Barker appointed Acting Governor.

MAY.

1st—Shanghai Races, second day.

2nd—Shanghai Races, third day.

3rd—Prize day at Victoria English Schools.—Lawn Tennis match between the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Ladies' Recreation Club, won by the Cricket Club.

4th—The laying of the cable between Labuan and Hongkong completed.

9th—Distribution of Belilios prizes at Government House.

10th—Hongkong declared infected with plague.

11th—Annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.—Collision between the steamers *Mike Maru* and *Monmouthshire* near the Tungsha lightship; both vessels damaged.

12th—Presentation by Chinese merchants to Hon. T. H. Whitehead, on the occasion of his departure from the colony on leave.

14th—Earthquake shock at Tientsin.

15th—Sir William and Lady Robinson returned from Japan.

19th—The Italian Minister to Peking received in audience by the Emperor in the Cheng Kwan Hall.

21st—Total loss of the German steamer *Alvina Seyd* off Barren Islands, while on a voyage from Newchwang to Amoy.

22nd—Deputation to the Governor praying that the house to house visitation in connection with the plague might cease.

23rd—Departure of Hon. T. H. Whitehead on leave.

25th—Celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

26th—Annual Carbine Competition of Hongkong Volunteer Corps.—Great conflagration at Yamagata; 1,202 houses destroyed and thirteen lives lost.

27th—Departure of the *Moyune*, the first tea steamer of the season, from Hankow.

31st—Mr. Chappell, first officer of the Customs Revenue cruiser *Likin*, and a boat's crew drowned while engaged in buoying work off Hainan Head.

JUNE.

2nd—The Japanese House of Representatives dissolved.—Death of Mr. W. Bevan from fracture of the skull caused by a fall.—The British steamer *Windsor*, from Iloilo to Delaware Breakwater, went ashore on the Zub Botaha Reef; got off after jettisoning cargo.

3rd—A piece goods shop in Jervois Street burnt.—Korea's appeal for Chinese troops to suppress the Tonghak Rebellion acceded to.

4th—Death of Mr. Hugh Fraser, British Minister to Japan.—Death of Captain Vesey of the Shropshire Light Infantry, who had contracted the plague while in charge of one of the parties engaged in house to house visitation and cleansing work.—Japan's representative at Seoul notified of the intended despatch of Chinese troops to Korea.

5th—Funeral of Captain Vesey.

6th—China and Japan begin to send troops to Korea.

7th—Deaths from plague in Hongkong for twenty-four hours 107, the greatest number recorded in one day during the epidemic.

9th—Mr. A. McConachie elected by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to represent the Chamber in the Legislative Council during the absence of the Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

10th—Dedication of the Bokhara Memorial Window in St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong.

11th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; Ordinance to ratify the Sanitary Board's Plague By-laws passed.—Two female medical missionaries, Dr. Halverson and Dr. Bigler, mobbed at Honam, Canton.

12th—Korean rebels defeated by Chinese and Korean troops.

13th—Phra Yot, the Siamese mandarin accused of having been responsible for an attack on a

Franeo-Annamite force, in which Inspector Grosvenor was killed, sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude by the Mixed Court appointed for his trial at Bangkok.—Presentation of prizes won in the annual shooting competition of the Hongkong Volunteers.
 15th—Hoihow harbour light exhibited for the first time.
 16th—Election of Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C., and Mr. R. K. Leigh, as members of the Hongkong Sanitary Board.
 17th—Conflagration at Yokohama; over one thousand native houses burnt.
 19th—The master and mate of the Nova Scotian ship *Selkirk*, sentenced at the Hongkong Police Court to six weeks' and three months' imprisonment respectively.—Anti-Christian riot at Sheklung.
 20th—Severe earthquake at Yokohama and Tokyo.—The Eastern Bimetallic League formed at Shanghai.
 29th—Official inspection of the iron-works at Hanyang by the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung.—Attack on the rebel forts at Jeram Ampai, Perak; Mr. Wise killed and Captain Talbot wounded by the rebels' fire.
 30th—Death of Mr. H. V. Cox, Hongkong, from an overdose of prussic acid.

JULY.

1st—The export duty on cotton yarn in Japan abolished.
 3rd—The new iron and steel works at Wuchang inaugurated by the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung.
 5th—Edison Crowe, chief mate of the Nova Scotian ship *Selkirk*, charged at the Hongkong Criminal Sessions with the murder of a seaman; convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to two years' hard labour.
 7th—Gymkhana meeting at Hongkong.
 10th—A paper on the plague by Professor Kitasato read by Dr. Lowson at the Government Civil Hospital.
 12th—Destructive fire at the Hanyang small arms factory.
 13th—Collision on the Peak Tramway, both cars being turned on to the same line; damage slight.
 15th—Mr. Gardner, the British Consul-General, Mrs. Gardner, and Mr. H. H. Fox, Legation assistant, assaulted by Japanese soldiers at Seoul.
 17th—Arrival at Hongkong of H.M.S. *Undaunted*.—The New Central Police Station at Shanghai opened.
 21st—Death at Shanghai of H. E. Heneh Fuchang, the late Chinese Minister to England, France, etc.—Collision at Woosung between the steamers *Kachidate Maru* and *Chingtu*.
 23rd—The P. M. steamer *City of Peking* ran aground at Yokohama, but got off after discharging a portion of her cargo.
 25th—The Indo-China steamer *Kowshing*, chartered for the conveyance of Chinese troops to Korea, sunk by Japanese man-of-war, about 1,000 lives lost; the Chinese despatch boat *Tsaoxing* captured by the Japanese; the torpedo gunboat *Kwong-Yi* driven ashore, and the ironclad *Chiyuen* repulsed.
 29th—After three days' fighting the Chinese defeated by the Japanese at Yashan.—Murder of Père Jozean by Chinese soldiers in Korea.

AUGUST.

1st—War declared between China and Japan.—Outrage on the British steamer *Chungking* at Tientsin, a number of Chinese soldiers boarding the vessel and subjecting the passengers to ill-usage.
 4th—Gymkhana meeting at Hongkong.—The Canadian Pacific steamer *Empress of China* grounded near the Red Buoy, Woosung, and got off on the 13th.—Concert on the Volunteer Parade Ground, Hongkong, for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Mr. Bevan.
 6th—Sudden death of Mr. Fitzgibbon, the Acting British Consul at Hoihow, of malignant fever.
 10th—Slight earthquake shock in Hongkong.—The Rev. James Wylie, of the Scotch Presbyterian Mission, murdered at Liaoyang near Newchwang.
 11th—Concert by the Hongkong Minstrels for the benefit of the soldiers and police engaged in plague work.
 14th—The new treaty between the United States and China ratified by the Senate.
 15th—Repetition of the Hongkong Minstrels' plague concert.
 20th—Arrival at Yokohama of the Hon. P. Le

Poer Trench, the new British Minister to Japan.
 22nd—Foundation stone of the new French Consulate at Shanghai laid.
 25th—Ratifications of the revised treaty between Japan and Great Britain exchanged at Tokyo.
 26th—Daring outrage by dacoits in Tonkin; the French Commissioner of Customs at Monsey, M. Chaillet, killed, and his wife and daughter abducted.
 27th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Taipingshan Resumption Bill and a Bill for the amendment of the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance read a first time.
 31st—The flower boats at Canton destroyed by fire.

SEPTEMBER.

1st—The Hongkong four per cent. debentures paid off, three-and-a-half per cent. inscribed stock being issued instead.—General election in Japan.—Hongkong Gymkhana meeting.
 3rd—The proclamation declaring Hongkong infected with plague revoked.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Taipingshan Resumption Bill read a second time; the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance Amendment Bill passed.
 7th—Victoria Recreation Club's Aquatic Sports, first day.
 8th—Victoria Recreation Club's Aquatic Sports, second day.
 10th—Gale in Hongkong harbour.
 11th—Severe typhoon at Kobe and in the neighbourhood.
 13th—The Emperor of Japan left Tokyo for Hiroshima.
 15th—Battle of Pingyang; the Chinese completely defeated by the Japanese.—Death at Kelung of General Wang Chih-seng, who was Commander-in-chief at the Pescadores when the *Bokkara* was wrecked and showed such hearty kindness to the survivors.
 17th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Taipingshan Resumption Bill passed; a new Health Bill read a first time; the Retrenchment Committee's report published.—M. M. Chesnay and Logion captured by pirates in Tonkin; they were released after several weeks' detention.—Naval battle off Yalu, the Chinese suffered a severe defeat, losing five vessels; the Japanese sustained considerable damage, but lost none of their vessels.—Floods at Manila.—Attack by pirates on a train on the Phulangthuang and Langson Railway.
 19th—Gale at Hongkong.
 20th—The British steamer *Pathan* seized by Chinese cruisers on a charge of carrying contraband of war; subsequently released.
 21st—Serious fire at Manila, in which Mr. Roxas' oil factory and godowns were burnt down.
 24th—Death of Mr. Max Goebel, the Consul-General for Belgium at Shanghai.
 25th—Severe gale at Hongkong.
 27th—Death of the Right Rev. Bishop Raimondi, Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong.—Public meeting at Hongkong at which it was decided to recognise the services of those who assisted in the plague work.—Wreck of the Japanese steamer *Yodogawa Maru* near Hakata.
 30th—Gale at Hongkong.

OCTOBER.

1st—First day of Interport Cricket Match between Shanghai and Kobe played at the first-named port.—Wreck of the German steamer *Bellona* on the Paracels.
 2nd—Interport Cricket Match between Shanghai and Kobe won by Shanghai.
 5th—Severe typhoon at Hongkong and Macao.—Destructive fire in the China Merchants' compound at Tientsin.
 7th—Mr. Draper killed by a fall from the verandah of Beaconsfield Arcade, Hongkong.
 8th—Death of Lady Robinson at Hongkong.—Two alleged Japanese spies beheaded at Nanking.
 9th—Funeral of Lady Robinson.
 12th—Imperial Edict issued for the protection of foreigners.
 14th—Sad boating accident at Foochow in which Miss Gittins was drowned.
 15th—Special session of the Japanese Diet met at Hiroshima.—The approval of the coinage of a British dollar announced.
 21st—The French gunboat *Farfait* fired across the bows of the British steamer *Taiyuan* owing to the latter not saluting.—Arrival at Hongkong of the cruiser *Crescent*.

22nd—Fire on the M. M. steamer *Saghalien* at Kobe.—Interport Cricket match between Kobe and Yokohama commenced at Kobe.—Severe earthquake in Yamagata Ken.
 23rd—Arrival at Hongkong of the gunboat *Redbreast*.—Interport Cricket match between Kobe and Yokohama won by Yokohama.
 25th—Concert at the City Hall, Hongkong, by Mr. Ruehwall's pupils.—Release of M. M. Chesnay and Logion, captured by pirates in Tonkin.
 26th—Detention at Hongkong of the N. D. L. steamer *Bayern* to unload a quantity of salt-petre shipped for Shanghai, which the Japanese claimed to be contraband of war.
 27th—Gymkhana meeting at Hongkong.—Third Concert by the Hongkong Minstrels on behalf of the soldiers and police engaged in plague work.
 28th—The match factory at Hunghom, British Kowloon, destroyed by fire.
 29th—Shanghai Races, first day.—The steamer *Menam*, belonging to the Messageries Fluviales de Cochinchine, wrecked near Point Samit.
 30th—Shanghai Races, second day.—A daughter of Mr. Allen, of Yokohama, four years of age, burnt to death, her clothing having accidentally caught fire.
 31st—Capture of Funghuang by the Japanese.—Shanghai Races, third day.

NOVEMBER.

2nd—Collision at Yokohama between the steamers *Afghan* and *Asloun*.
 3rd—At a meeting of Taipingshan lot-holders Mr. W. Danby elected the lot-holders' representative on the Board of Arbitration.—Arrival at Hongkong of the cruiser *Zeolus*.
 5th—Suicide of Martino Rodrigues, by jumping overboard from the *Huingshan* on the voyage from Macao to Hongkong.—At Kobe an armed force from a Japanese man-of-war boarded the M. M. steamer *Sydney* and removed two American passengers and one Chinese, supposed to be proceeding to China to enter the Chinese service.—The British steamer *Gaelic* searched by the Japanese at Yokohama.
 6th—Baxter Mission sale of work at Hongkong.—Sudden death of Mr. P. C. Jansen at a Masonic Lodge meeting at Shanghai.—Kinchow taken by the Japanese.
 7th—Celebration of the sixtieth birthday anniversary of the Empress Dowager of China.—Tallienwan taken by the Japanese.—Signor Cattaneo's Concert at the City Hall, Hongkong.
 9th—A junk seized by Chinese Customs officers at Quarry Bay, Hongkong.—Arrival at Hongkong of the cruiser *Edgar*.—Great fire at Bangkok, 107 houses reduced to ashes.
 10th—Arrival at Hongkong of the cruiser *Spartan*.
 12th—Armed robbery in Wing Lok Street.—A copy of the New Testament presented to the Empress Dowager by the Christian women of China.—The Foreign Ministers received in audience by the Emperor within the precincts of the Palace, Peking.
 14th—The British flag saluted at Tientsin in atonement for the outrage committed on the steamer *Chungking* on the 1st August.
 15th—The light at Lamko exhibited for the first time.
 17th—"The Revenge" concert at the City Hall, Hongkong.
 18th—Sin-yen captured by the Japanese.
 21st—Port Arthur occupied by the Japanese.
 22nd—Daring robbery by an armed band in Wing Lok Street, a passer-by shot dead and a Sikh constable fatally wounded.—Smoking concert given by the Hongkong Odd Volumes as a farewell to Mr. Sidney Jeffrey, the Secretary, on his leaving the colony.
 24th—The American ship *Mary L. Stone* wrecked at Shaosid, N. E. Formosa.—Gymkhana at Hongkong.
 28th—Meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council; the Governor made his speech on the opening of the session; at a meeting of the Finance Committee subsequently held a vote of \$80,000 for exchange compensation to the civil servants was passed.
 30th—Earthquake at Yokohama and Tokyo.—St. Andrew's Ball.—Fire at No. 32, Bonham Strand.

DECEMBER.

1st—Public Gardens on the French Concession, at Shameen, opened.—Fire at No. 270, Queen's

- Board Central, and another at No. 433, Hollywood Road.
- 2nd—Serious fire on the D. D. R. steamer *Irene* at Yokohama.
- 4th—Arrival at Hongkong of the chartered troopship *Jumna* with troops.
- 5th—The Governor of Hongkong at a special parade of the troops thanked the Garrison for their services during the plague.
- 6th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; several bills read a first time.—A Sikh constable ran amok at the Central Police Station. Hongkong, killed a Chinese constable, and committed suicide.—Death of Mr. E. A. Lammert.
- 7th—The chartered transport *Jumna* left Hongkong with two companies of Artillery for Malta and details for England.—Marine Court held at Hongkong to investigate the circumstances attending the grounding of the steamer *Zefiro* near Quarry Bay on the 14th November.
- 9th—The San Miguel Godowns, Manila, burnt down; loss \$80,000.
- 11th—The prisoners charged with assaulting Chinese Customs Officers who had boarded a junk committed to trial with a view to their rendition to the Chinese Government.
- 12th—At a meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, held in London, a scheme of reconstruction was adopted.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Appropriation Bill, 1895, and the Telegrams Bill read a second time.—Death of Mr. H. Hoppins, Hongkong.
- 14th—Imperial Edict issued for the protection of the legations, missionary chapels, and foreign residences in Peking.—Victoria Regatta, first day.
- 15th—Arrival at Hongkong of the Rifle Brigade from Calcutta.—Victoria Regatta, second day.
- 17th—Release of Madame Chaillet and her daughter, captured by pirates in Tonkin.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Appropriation Bill passed; and several minor bills passed or advanced a stage.
- 20th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Stamp Ordinance Amendment Bill and Telegraphic Messages Bill passed.—Annual meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society.
- 21st—The Supreme Court discharged, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, three prisoners whose rendition had been applied for by the Chinese Government on a charge of assaulting Customs officers who had boarded a junk while entering Hongkong harbour.—Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., read a paper before the Hongkong "and Volumes" on the China-Japan War.—The memorial stone of the Kowloon Institute laid by Mrs. Boyes.—Dance given by the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong.
- 22nd—Departure of the Shropshire Light Infantry from Hongkong for Calcutta.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Insanitary Dwellings Bill considered in Committee.—Prize distribution at St. Joseph's College, Hongkong.
- 23rd—Volunteer Church Parade at Hongkong.
- 24th—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the Insanitary Dwellings Bill passed.—Opening of the Phulang-thuong and Langson Railway.
- 27th—First meeting of the Taipingshan Resumption Arbitration Board.
- 28th—Death of Baron Grandmaison at the Hongkong Hotel, from an overdose of morphia.
- 30th—Arrival at Hongkong of H.M.S. *Gibraltar*.

A panic was recently caused in Ningpo, says the *N. C. Daily News*, by the rumour that the Ningpo Taotai had sent his family to a place of safety upon the news of Japanese men-of-war being seen off Chinshai. To show that it was unfounded Wu Taotai sent his wife and the female members of his family in sedan chairs in great pomp and state, preceded by all the paraphernalia inseparable from a high Chinese official, to the "Women's Refuge" and "Women's Reformatory" in the city, for a day's wandering about those large and rambling institutions of local charity. The fact soon became known that the Taotai's family remained with him, and as this was a proof that the mandarins felt secure, confidence was again restored in the city and suburbs of Ningpo.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB

The sixth Club race was sailed on the 30th December and resulted in a win for *Dart*, which is now become the property of Dr. J. Lowson. We are glad to see the doctor at the tiller of a craft which is more worthy of him and we congratulate him on scoring a win in his first essay. Course.—From the Submarine Mining Pier round Stonecutters (starboard), dinghy off Pier (port), Channel Rocks (starboard), finishing at the starting line; 13 mile.

STARTERS.		
Name.	Owner.	Rating.
<i>Petrel</i>	R. A.	1.4
<i>Payne</i>	R. E.	1.6
<i>Dart</i>	Dr. Lowson	1.5
<i>Stella</i>	Capt. Stirling, A.D.C.	1.6
<i>Ladybird</i>	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson	1.1
<i>Erica</i>	Mr. A. Dennis	1.3

SECOND CLASS.

<i>She</i>	Mr. J. H. Gale
<i>Elfin</i>	Mr. G. P. Lammert

Payne and *Stella* allow *Dart* 56 sec.; *Ladybird* and *Petrel* 1 min. 56 sec.; and *Erica* 3 mins. 2 sec. *Elfin* allows *She* 3 mins.

A light easterly breeze prevailed at the start, and all except *Dart* luffed out sharp to windward of the *Victor* and then set spinnakers for the run to Stonecutters west. The wind drew more northerly on a proaching the island and spinnakers were handed. *Dart* gave the point a very wide berth, and the rest steered closer under the fort, but on hauling to the wind there was little to choose between the four leaders *Payne*, *Stella*, *Dart*, and *Ladybird*. Some close and interesting cross-tacking then ensued, *Stella* and *Ladybird* hugged the island shore closely, while *Dart* boldly stood out in the strength of the tide, which was then setting to the westward into Chin Wau Bay. The result was that the two former boats took the lead and the east point of Stonecutters was rounded as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Ladybird</i>	12	34	30
<i>Stella</i>	12	35	10
<i>Dart</i>	12	36	40
<i>Payne</i>	12	37	25
<i>Erica</i>	12	38	20
<i>Petrel</i>	12	42	15

The Wind God was, however, determined to befriending the Doctor in his maiden effort, for soon the *Dart* came booming along before a favouring gale into first place, while *Ladybird* and *Stella* were standing upright.

It was a reach to the mark boat off the Pier, which was rounded as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Dart</i>	1	13	26
<i>Stella</i>	1	14	48
<i>Payne</i>	1	15	05
<i>Ladybird</i>	1	15	19
<i>Petrel</i>	1	16	34
<i>Erica</i>	1	17	0

On the beat to the Rocks the wind freshened considerably, and at North Point was quite as hard as most boats could stand without reefing. *Erica*, which up to now had been moving sluggishly, at once began to show her paces and came through the fleet in fine style. *Dart* stood far over into Kowloon Bay and appeared to score by so doing as she got a northerly wind which carried her first round the Rocks by a long lead. Then came *Erica*, *Payne*, *Stella*, *Ladybird*, and *Petrel*. It was a fast run home in a good breeze. *Erica* was caught and passed by *Payne*. The former's forte evidently is going to windward and not running.

The times at the finish were:—

	H.	M.	S.	10 marks
<i>Dart</i>	2	45	47	1
<i>Payne</i>	2	54	30	1
<i>Erica</i>	2	54	43	4
<i>Stella</i>	2	55	14	
<i>Ladybird</i>	2	58	52	
<i>Petrel</i>	3	02	16	
<i>Elfin</i>	3	53	51	4
<i>She</i>	3	55	06	10

Marks now are:—

<i>Dart</i>	38	<i>Elfin</i>	26
<i>Erica</i>	52	<i>She</i>	21
<i>Stella</i>	14	<i>Kitten</i>	10
<i>Ladybird</i>	3	<i>Mary Ann</i>	10
<i>Petrel</i>	1		
<i>Payne</i>	1		

Twenty-eight houses on the French Concession at Shanghai and six outside were burnt on the 21st ult., but the insurances only amount to something like \$10,000, apportioned among the Union, Hamburg of 1877, North British and Mercantile, Meiji, North and Sun. The houses were situated in the rues de l'Est and Whampoa, at the top of Kinleeyuen.

CRICKET.

SCOTLAND v. THE WORLD.

This match was played on Christmas and Boxing Days and resulted in a victory for Scotland by an innings and 17 runs. The teams on paper looked fairly well matched, but the World collapsed unaccountably. The following is the score:—

SCOTLAND.	
J. A. Lowson, c and b Elliot	38
E. W. Maitland, b Firth	55
A. S. Anton, b Shelford	17
F. Maitland, c Ezekiel, b Elliot	2
R. D. Campbell, b Firth	1
J. G. Watson, absent	—
P. G. Anderson, b Firth	1
G. Stewart, c Lammert, b Firth	8
W. Taylor, b Elliot	1
D. Landale, run out	0
R. L. Smith, not out	4
Extras	10

BOWLING ANALYSIS.				
	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Firth	24.2	6	47	4
Darby	9	2	21	—
Mast	6	2	17	—
Elliot	17	4	38	3
Shelford	6	1	16	1

THE WORLD.				
FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.		
C. M. Firth, c Stewart, b Lowson	5	c Landale, b Lowson	5	
E. C. Ellis, b Watson	13	b E. W. Maitland	16	
S. L. Darby, b Watson	4	c and b Lowson	—	
Surge, M. for Reade, lbw, b Watson	5	not out	3	
H. M. Elliot, run out	2	c and b Lowson	0	
T. Shelford, b Watson	0	b Watson	0	
E. Mast, lbw, b Watson	2	retired hurt	0	
B. P. Sheldon, c Anton, b Lowson	14	lbw, b Lowson	4	
Ross Thompson, c Lowson, b Watson	3	b Watson	0	
E. S. Ezekiel, b Lowson	0	c Lowson, b E. W. Maitland	3	
R. P. Lammert, not out	0	b Watson	—	
Extras	3	Extras	1	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.				
	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
First Innings.				
Lowson	13.1	4	35	4
Watson	13	8	9	5
Second Innings.				
Lowson	15	2	39	4
Watson	19.1	9	33	3
E. Maitland	7	3	10	2

HONGKONG VOUNTEERS.

MAXIM GUN CORPS.

The sixth monthly Carbine competition for the Company's championship challenge cup, which took place on Saturday afternoon over the 200 and 500 yards distances on the Police Range, Kowloon, kindly lent for the occasion by the Captain Superintendent of Police, resulted in a fourth win for Gunner Smyth, the holder of the cup, with a score of 59; 30 at the former distance and 29 at the latter. The afternoon, which was fine and not too warm, seemed favourable to good shooting at the shorter range, but at the longer distance the light proved very deceptive, and no doubt contributed largely to the collapse of some of the marksmen who might under more favourable conditions have been expected to show good results. The following were the three best scores:—

	200 Yds.	500 Yds.	Total.
Gunner Smyth	30	29	59
Gunner Shepherd	24	27	51
Gunner G. P. Lammert	23	17	40

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE HEALTH BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your leading article on Tuesday last, in which my name is mentioned, you say that:—"In the draft submitted to the Sanitary Board on the 17th instant a section appeared providing that the height of houses on land hereafter bought from the Crown should be limited according to the width of the streets, the conditions with regard to existing property being much more liberal."

This is not quite the true reading of the draft, which laid down one height of houses in streets of less than 20 feet in width on land bought from the Crown after this Ordinance and then went on to lay down certain heights for house in all streets above that width whether bought before or after the passing of this Ordinance.

Now what I argued was:—1st, that there little or no land left in Government's hands

able for this class of property; 2nd, that if above a certain height was insanitary on land bought after this date, it must be equally so on land bought before; and 3rd, that it was useless to consider any width of street of less than 15 feet, as that minimum is laid down for private streets on all land by clause 52 of the Building Ordinance and there are no public streets of less than that width. Any house therefore destroyed by fire or requiring to be rebuilt from any cause must by the existing law be set back to 15 feet clear width. I fail, therefore, to see the object of the amendment that was passed at Monday's Council meeting reducing this width in the Health Bill to 14 feet, unless the Building Ordinance is also to be amended. An owner has, therefore, only to set back $\frac{1}{2}$ inch more, so as to make the street over 15 feet, to enable him to build to a height of 35 feet, which is sufficient for three stories of this class of house, and it will be found that there are not many houses of more than these stories in these 15-foot lanes.

I agree with your article that there was no great urgency for the introduction of this question of height of buildings in the present Bill and that it would have been better left over till the general revision of the Health Ordinance. The first I heard of it was when the draft Bill was sent down to the Sanitary Board for consideration, and it certainly was not one of the recommendations forwarded by the Permanent Committee to the Government six months ago with the request that a short Ordinance be introduced as soon as possible.

I was careful in considering this Ordinance to guard as much as possible the interest of landlords, and I moved the introduction of a special clause on this very question of height of houses, giving the Sanitary Board power to make exceptions, as I imagined cases might arise which would be hard on the landlord. I also moved the striking out of a clause limiting the number to four stories in all houses without the special permission of the Sanitary Board and the Director of Public Works. Many of the other amendments I moved were also considerably in landlord's favour.—Yours truly,

R. K. LEIGH.

Hongkong, 26th December, 1894.

HONGKONG.

The Christmas and New Year holidays have intervened since date of our last issue; the weather was favourable for outdoor enjoyment, and the holidays were observed in the usual way. The Board of Arbitration appointed to adjudicate on the claims arising out of the resumption by the Crown of the Taipingshan district has commenced its labours and has given its award in several cases. Baron de Grandmaison, a young man twenty-six years of age, died at the Hongkong Hotel on the 28th December from an overdose of morphia, which he had taken hypodermically to relieve pain; at the inquest a verdict of misadventure was given by the Magistrate conducting the inquiry. Rumours having arisen as to the existence of plague in the Tunkoon district, inquiries are being made by the Hongkong Government to ascertain their correctness. The existence of plague at Amoy is contradicted by the medical men there.

The China Mutual new steamer *Oopack* arrived on Sunday.

The Douglas steamer *Namoa* was decorated on Friday in celebration of the completion of her five hundredth voyage.

The Derby nominations closed on Saturday and were twenty-eight in number. The entries last year numbered eighteen.

Negotiations are in progress, and are almost completed, for the sale of the Douglas Company's steamer *Fokien* to the Japanese.

Dr. Westcott, A.M.S., is going to the Tunkoon district to make inquiries on behalf of the Hongkong Government as to the reported existence of plague there.

Mr. T. Sercombe Smith has been appointed Official Receiver under section 9 of Ordinance 20 of 1891 during the absence of Mr. Bruce Shepherd or until further notice.

We are informed by the Manager of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, that he has received a telegram from London that at a meeting of shareholders of the Bank held in London on the 28th inst. the resolution passed at the meeting of the 12th December was duly confirmed.

Wong Tai Mui, aged 52 years, who was found dead in her new sampan near Shauiwan, on the morning of the 23rd, is thought to have been murdered for her money and jewellery. The police have given the matter considerable attention and have also offered \$100 for the apprehension of the guilty parties, but thus far their efforts have been fruitless. The impression is that the offenders have escaped to the mainland.

Christmas Day was saddened for a good many, and especially for the German community, by the death of Mr. F. Rapp. Mr. Rapp had been resident in Hongkong for between twenty and thirty years, and was respected by all who knew him. During the early years of his residence he was an assistant in the firm of Blackhead & Co., but afterwards established himself in business as an auctioneer and commission agent. The funeral took place the following afternoon passing the Monument at five o'clock. The flag of the German Club was half-masted on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The installation meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, was held on Thursday night, when Bro. G. A. Caldwell was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year, the ceremony being conducted by the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Hon. C. P. Chater, who was attended by the Grand Lodge officers. Wor. Bro. Caldwell appointed and invested his officers as follows:—S.W., Bro. J. R. Crook; J.W., Bro. D. Macdonald; Treasurer, Bro. R. Mitchell; Secretary, Bro. J. Dyer Ball; S.D., Bro. J. A. Chaudet; J.D., Bro. G. A. Buckland; I.G., Bro. J. Schwarzkopf; Dir. of Ceremonies, Bro. J. Lechard; Steward, Bro. D. Wood; Tyler, Bro. J. Maxwell. There was an exceptionally large attendance at the Lodge. A banquet was afterwards held and in the speeches that were made touching reference was made to the fact of Wor. Bro. Caldwell's now entering on the distinguished office which his father held in Zetland Lodge thirty-seven years ago and on a second occasion in 1872.

The other evening the members of the City Club and their friends assembled in force at the Club premises for the purpose of wishing good-bye to their late President, Mr. Chas Grant, who is shortly leaving this colony for Shanghai. The reading room was tastefully decorated with flowers and gaily coloured bunting, and Mr. J. P. Cottam occupied the chair. During the evening a pleasant ceremony took place, the chairman, on behalf of the members, presenting Mr. Grant with a handsome silver card tray as a souvenir in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him to the Club. Mr. Grant, in a brief speech, thanked the members for their kind wishes, and hoped the club would continue on its present prosperous career. Amongst those who contributed to the musical part of the programme were Messrs. L. Phillips, P. R. Wilson, W. K. Wyse, R. Isbell, C. T. Robinson, and G. G. Brady, the last-named two, needless to say, being recalled several times. Mr. F. Grimble accompanied.

The annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China was held on Friday night, when the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Hon. C. P. Chater, appointed his officers as follows and invested those who were present:—D.S.G.W., Wor. Bro. F. W. Henemann; D.G.J.W., Wor. Bro. W. Baker; D.G. Chaplain, Wor. Bro. S. St. Aidan Baylee; D.G. Treasurer, Wor. Bro. S. L. Darby; D.G. Registrar, Wor. Bro. G. C. Anderson; D.G. President of the Board of General Purposes, Wor. Bro. A. D. Death; D.G. Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin; D.G.S.D., Wor. Bro. H. B. Weeks; D.G.J.D., Wor. Bro. H. B. Marshall; D.G. Supt. of Works, Wor. Bro. P. B. Simmonds; D.G. Dir. of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. G. A. Caldwell; D.G. Assist. Dir. of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. F. Cass; D.G. Sword Bearer, Wor. Bro. S. J. Hanisch; D.G. Standard Bearers, Wor. Bro. E. C. Ellis and Wor. Bro. G. McM. Thomson; D.G. Orgainst, Bro. C. W. Longuet; D.G. Pursuivant, Bro. T. Spafford; D.G. Assist. Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. F. Salinger; D.G. Stewards, Bro. H. W. Robertson, Bro. G. Moffatt, Bro. T. G. Gowland, Bro. A. B. Tonzalin, Bro. C. S. Rogers, and Bro. E. T. Bond; D.G. Tyler, Bro. J. R. Grimble. The unofficial members of the Board of General Purposes elected were Wor. Bro. J. Bryant and Wor. Bro. G. L. Tomlin.

At the last regular meeting of the Eothen Mark Lodge Bro. R. Cooke was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin as Treasurer.

On Sunday the new Blue Funnel steamer *Orestes*, which has already been described in our columns, arrived from home. She is the third new steamer which has arrived during the last few days, the other two being the *Breconshire* and the *Oopuck*.

A picnic arranged by the members of the I.O.G.T. took place on Christmas Day. The party made a trip round the island, calling in at Stanley for lunch, and after a visit to the cemetery there the circuit of the island was completed. In the evening a tea, followed by a concert, was held at the Soldiers' Institute, Queen's Road, both being well attended and proving a success.

The Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the following Ordinances:—The Spirit Licences Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-Houses, and Markets Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, the Stamp Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, the Telegraphic Messages Ordinance, and the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance.

On Saturday night Dr. Gerlach, who had been dining at Dunnottar, the residence of Mr. Becker, on leaving the house was unfortunate enough in the fog to miss his footing and fall down an embankment some 12 ft. in height. His left fore arm was broken and the wrist of the same arm sprained. Mr. Meyerink, who was in his company, understands ambulance work and at once bandaged the injured limb, after which Dr. Gerlach was taken to the Mount Austin Hotel. It will probably be a few weeks before the doctor is able to attend to his duties again.

COMMERCIAL. TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama.....	27,938,522	27,285,240
Kobe.....	16,222,254	15,968,532
	44,160,776	43,248,772

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton and Macao.....	7,553,372	7,194,255
Amoy.....	719,368	640,268
Foochow.....	13,777,348	20,924,809
Shanghai and Hankow.....	21,319,596	24,160,589
	43,369,684	52,919,921

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton.....	2,659,520	1,109,192
Amoy.....	16,535,397	16,812,468
Foochow.....	8,140,519	5,883,105
Shanghai.....	23,534,088	29,325,323
	50,869,524	46,130,089

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	22,555,223	21,619,462

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 27th December.—(From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams dated 21st inst., report the market "quiet." Gold Stock is quoted 10/14 and Gold Kiling 7/3. Raw Silk.—Partly owing to adverse news from Europe, and partly to the Christmas holidays, business this week has been on a restricted scale. Native dealers continue firm and refuse further reductions in the face of the large stock for the time of the year. Tsattees.—Moderate buyers have been in the market on the basis of Tls. 315 for Gold Kiling and Double Silver Elephant. Better qualities are neglected. Taysams.—Small business at quotations. Yellow Silks.—Are in demand for India and the Straits at rates which show no material change. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 20th to the 26th current, are 678 bales of White, 181 bales of Yellow and 145 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—A parcel of Filatures Croisé: Veekee Old Man Extra and No. 1 changed hands at Tls. 500.

and 490 respectively. In Re-reels there is nothing doing. Wild Silk.—With the exception of 50 bales Tussah Filatures which were settled at Tls. 172½ to 195, we hear of no business. Waste Silk.—Remains very quiet. Tussah Waste 1 and 2 was sold at Tls. 25½ for No. 1 and Tls. 21½ for No. 2. Pongees.—500 pieces of Shantung Pongees 20 oz., changed hands at Tls. 1.75 per piece, and contracts were made for 500 pieces White Shanghai Pongees 22 by 70 yards by 56/57 oz. with 10 per cent. Congee at Tls. 14.60 per piece, also 2,000 pieces Handkerchiefs 26 by 9 oz. at Tls. 1.70 per piece.

Purchases include:—Tsatees.—Red Pagoda 3 at Tls. 392½, Large Elephant 4 at Tls. 337½, Gold Lion at Tls. 337½, Gold Kiling at Tls. 313½ to 315, Stork Cheangling at Tls. 300. Taysam.—Kahing Gold Goose 2 at Tls. 317½, ditto. M at Tls. 310. Yellow Silk.—Mianchow at Tls. 235 to 252½, Meeyang at Tls. 220, Wongyi at Tls. 205 to 210, Fooyung at Tls. 184½ to 205, Szechong at Tls. 160. Filature.—Veeke Old Man Croise Extra and No. 1 at Tls. 500 to 400.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	5,381	1,712
Shanghai.....	5,325	1,293
Yokohama.....	17,711	8,549
	28,417	11,554

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	9,573	11,592
Shanghai.....	30,363	34,626
Yokohama.....	13,058	13,929
Total to date.....	52,994	60,147

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—Business has continued dull and a further decline in prices has to be reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$42.00 to \$43.50.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—The market has weakened during the interval owing to the approach of the Chinese new year and the desire of native holders to realize. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.68 to 7.70 per picul. do. „ 2, White... 7.25 to 7.27 „ Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.97 to 5.00 „ do. „ 2, Brown... 4.78 to 4.81 „ Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.60 to 7.62 „ do. „ 2, White... 7.68 to 7.10 „ do. „ 1, Brown... 4.76 to 4.77 „ Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.55 to 4.57 „ Foochow Sugar Candy..... 11.57 to 11.60 „ Shekloong „..... 10.67 to 10.70 „

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The American bark Amy Turner, Hongkong to Baltimore, 13th December, took:—13,753 rolls Matting and 323 packages Merchandise.

The P. & O. steamer Shanghai, Hongkong to London, 25th December, took:—5,048 boxes Tea (12,327 lbs. Congou, 73,201 lbs. Scented Caper, 10,520 lbs. Sorts, 40 bales Duck Feathers, 71 cases Bristles, 147 bales Cane, 100 cases Cassia Buds, 1,000 cases Preserves, 455 cases Preserves, 2 cases Earthenware, 16 cases Blackwoodware, 107 cases Chinaware, 1,491 rolls Matting, 175 bales Waste Silk, 8 cases Cigars, 281 packages Palm Leaf Fans, and 10 packages Sundries; for Amsterdam:—100 chests Tea.

The steamer Ozus, Hongkong to Continent, 26th December, took:—272 bales Raw Silk, 1 bale Waste Silk, 10 cases Silk Piece Goods, 40 cases Essential Oil, 40 cases Bristles, 2 cases Piece Paper, 125 cases Staraniseed, 250 cases Cassia, 10 cases Cigars, 1 case China Ink, 131 boxes Tea and 8 packages Matting.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th December.—Bengal.—The market ruled very dull throughout the interval and a further decline has taken place in rates. Current quotations are 833½ for New Patna, and 827½ for New Benares.

Malwa.—No change has taken place in the prices for this drug. Business has been up to the average, the following being the current figures:—New \$690 with allow'ce of 0 to 1 catty. Old (2 to 3 yrs.) \$700 „ 0 to 1 „ „ (4 to 5 yrs.) \$710 „ 1 „ „ (6 to 8 yrs.) \$720 „ 1 „

Persian.—Also continues unchanged, closing quotations being: \$680 to \$700 for Oily and \$700 to \$770 for Paper Wrapped.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—Bengal.—There was a slight drop in the market rates for this drug, but towards the close prices rallied and quotations now stand at \$833½ to \$835 for Patna and \$825 for Benares.

Malwa.—Owing to the approach of the native New Year holidays, there has been a lull in business and prices have declined. The following are the current figures:—

New \$680 with allow'ce of 1 to 1½ cattie. Old (2/3 years) \$690 „ 0 to 1 „ „ (4/5 years) \$700 „ 0 to 1 „ „ (6/8 years) \$710 „ 1 „

Persian.—There has been hardly anything doing in this drug. Quotations close at \$680 to \$700 for Oily and \$700 to \$760 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are given as under:—

Patna.....	2,697 chests.
Benares.....	1,210 „
Malwa.....	1,111 „
Persian.....	1,073 „

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1894.						
Dec. 20	817½	—	837½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 21	840	—	830	—	690	700/72
Dec. 22	835	—	827½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 23	835	—	827½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 24	835	—	827½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 25	833½	—	827½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 26	833½	—	827½	—	690	700/72
Dec. 27	830	—	825	—	690	700/72
Dec. 28	830	—	825	—	690	700/72
Dec. 29	830	—	825	—	690	700/72
Dec. 30	830	—	825	—	690	700/72
Dec. 31	832½	—	825	—	690	700/72
1895.						
Jan. 1	833½	—	825	—	690	700/72
Jan. 2	833½	—	825	—	690	700/72

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—Very dull and nothing doing in Indian Staples, China moving but little at lower rates. Stocks are 1,054 bales Bengal, 140 bales Kurachee, 277 bales Rangoon, and about 1,000 bales of Chinese Cotton.

Bombay \$12.00 to 14.00 p. picul.
Kurachee 11.00 to 14.00 „
Bengal, Rangoon, and } 12.00 to 13.50 „
Dacca, „ }
Shanghai and Japanese.. 16.00 to 17.00 „
Tungchow and Ningpo.. 16.00 to 17.00 „
Madras 14.00 to 15.00 „
Sales: 20 bales Bombay, 500 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—The demand continues slack and the downward movement in prices continues. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.08 to 2.10
„ Round, good quality.....	2.31 to 2.35
„ Long.....	2.42 to 2.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.18 to 2.22
„ Garden, „ No. 1.....	2.59 to 2.62
Siam White.....	2.87 to 2.91
„ Fine Cargo.....	3.22 to 3.25

COALS.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—Market continues weakening with very little business. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian.....	10.50 to 11.00 ex ship, sellers.
Milke Lump.....	7.25 to 7.50 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small.....	6.25 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump.....	6.50 to 7.00 ex ship, steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarns.—920 bales No. 10 at \$67 to \$74½, 175 bales No. 12 at \$68½ to \$71, 25 bales No. 16 at \$74½, 380 bales No. 20 at \$78 to \$80. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.55, 750 pieces 300 chop at \$3.40, 500 pieces 3 chop at \$3.33, 450 pieces E. F. at \$6.25, 1,000 pieces Horse at \$1.95, 750 pieces Teen Kong at \$3.87½, 500 pieces Peacock at \$3.32½, 500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.32½, 500 pieces Flower at \$1.47½, 450 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.40, 450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 1,000 pieces Gold Joss B. at \$3.15, 500 pieces 2,000 chop at \$2.37½, 500 pieces 1,000 chop at \$3.47½, 500 pieces 1 chop at \$3.05, and 1,000 pieces Black Stag at \$2.10. Grey Shirtings.—3½ lbs.—900 pieces Red Seal at \$2.47½, 300

pieces Blue Fish at \$2.40, 600 pieces Red 5 Men at \$2.50, 900 pieces Blue Crab at \$2.35, and 600 pieces Blue 5 Men at \$2.50. 10 lbs.—3,000 pieces Blue 5 Men at \$3.53, 1,500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$3.52½ to \$3.55, 500 pieces Sycee at \$3.55, 1,000 pieces Red 5 Men at \$3.06, 500 pieces Sycee at \$3.55, 1,200 pieces Horse and Cannon at \$3.15, 750 pieces Stag at \$3.55, 500 pieces Vase at \$3.60, and 250 pieces Palace at \$3.20. T-Cloths.—6 lbs.—500 pieces Bombay at \$1.63, and 500 pieces Red Pagoda at \$1.37½. Mexican 7 lbs.—375 pieces Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.79, 750 pieces Silver Joss at \$1.92½, 1,875 pieces 4 Stags at \$2.10, 500 pieces Bear at \$2.75, 500 pieces Gold Horse at \$2.59, 2,250 pieces Silver Lion No. 1 at \$1.83, 750 pieces Red Stag at \$2.17½, 300 pieces Gold Horse at \$2.55, and 375 pieces Gold Pheasant at \$1.85. 8 lbs.—300 pieces Gold Dragon at \$2.50, 900 pieces Hunter and Stag at \$2.87½, 1,500 pieces VV at \$2.65, 1,500 pieces XX at \$2.70, 900 pieces Red Stag at \$2.50, 300 pieces Red Dragon at \$2.10. Drills.—150 pieces, 14 lbs. Dragon at \$3.75. White Irish Folds.—250 pieces No. 1 at \$4.55, 250 pieces No. 2 at \$4.10, and 250 pieces No. 3 at \$3.60. Long E's, Scarlet.—1,200 pieces 7 lbs. at \$6.60 to \$6.65, 1,100 pieces 8 lbs. at \$6.85 to \$6.90, 500 pieces 9 lbs. at \$7.10; Purple and Green 375 pieces 8 lbs. at \$7.30. Velvet.—300 pieces 22 in. at \$0.21½.

METALS.—Iron.—1,000 piculs Old Wire Rope at \$2.10 to \$2.40. Quicksilver.—380 flasks at \$112½ to \$113½.

SHANGHAI, 27th December.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's Piece Goods Trade Report.)—Buying could not continue long on the scale that was indulged in during the previous two weeks and it practically ceased just before the departure of the last Mail, leaving Importers free to enjoy the holidays customary at this festive season and which have virtually monopolised the greater part of the interval. A few sales were made at the close of last week, after the publication of this report, on about the same lines as before, and these, with a few contracts for American makes and the usual auction offerings constitute the entire business that has passed. No doubt the rather abrupt termination of the enquiry was assisted by the drop in Exchange, which, together with the firmer tone of the Manchester market, forced holders to ask prices that did not quite fall in with the ideas of investors, for the decline in Cotton Goods at the public sales shows that the current demand does not justify any enhancement in values at present. Clearances from private godowns have been freer, but the goods are not going into consumption yet, only into the steamer godowns, to facilitate financial arrangements probably. With the native New Year settling only a month ahead it is not likely there will be much more done until that is over; even now the dealers are in many cases trying to defer payment till then, but with the present precarious and uncertain state of affairs prompt cash should continue to be the order of the day.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 2nd January.—We have not much business to report owing to the Christmas and New Year holidays, but quotations show a marked improvement in rates and the tone of the market is firm.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Small sales at 113 and 112 per cent. prem. is all we have to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands in small lots at \$60. Cantons have been in continued request and with no shares forthcoming the rate has risen to \$148 ex div. = \$153 cum. Straits have experienced quite a boom and have changed hands at \$18, \$20, \$21, \$23, \$24, and \$25, closing firm at latter rate. Other Marines are neglected but firm at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have ruled steady with small sales at \$17½, and close steady with further buyers at that rate. China Fires have been in demand and have changed hands at \$74 and \$75, closing firm. Straits are neglected.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao after sales at \$25, \$26, and \$27 close firm at the latter rate; there are very few sellers of this stock. Douglas's have improved to \$52 with sales and look like hardening still further. Indo-Chinas and China-Manilas remain neglected.

REFINERIES.—Continue out of favour and we have no business to report.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled firm during the week and shares have changed hands at \$7, \$7½, \$7½, \$8, and \$8½; at time of writing, however, they are weaker with sales and sellers at \$7½. Preferences have changed hands at \$2. Charbonnages have been enquired for at \$70, but no actual business has resulted; the market closes

steady at that rate. We have no business to report in other Mining stock.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks continue to rule steady and small sales have been effected at 81 and 82 per cent. prem.; market closes with sellers at the latter and small buyers at the former rate. Lands remain steady and firm at \$52½ to \$53, with small sales. Kowloon Wharfs have been in demand and have changed hands at \$35; with the reported favourable six months' working this stock shows signs of improvement. A. S. Watsons have changed hands at \$9.75, and more shares are on offer at that rate; shares, however, could be placed at \$9.50. We have no business to report in other stock.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'har.	\$125	112 p. ct. pm., sellers
China, Japan, &c.	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	£1	2½
Nat. Bank of Ch...		
B. Shares.....	£8	118½, buyers
Found. Shares.....	£1	nom.
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	24½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	54, sellers
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	140, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	11s. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	51
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	34½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	15, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$50	34½
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	14, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	56
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	125
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	14, sales
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	65, ex div. buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	87, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	35, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	120, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	82 p. ct. pm., sales
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	9, buyers
Shameen	\$20	14
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	148, ex div. buyers
China Fire	\$20	75, buyers
China Traders' ..	\$25	60, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire ..	\$50	175, buyers
North-China	£25	11s. 200
Straits Marine.....	\$20	23, sales
Union	\$25	126
Yangtze	\$60	77½, sales
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm.	\$50	52½, buyer
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	18, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	104
West Point Buildg.	\$40	16, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	48, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	24, sales & buyers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	17
Jebeu	\$5	5, sales
Punjom	\$34	7½, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	2, sales
Kauba	13s. 10d.	44, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila...	\$50	65, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co....	\$50	52, sales
H., Canton, & M....	\$20	27, sales
Indo-China S. N....	£10	38, sellers
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	40
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	94, sales & sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 28th December:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—No business has been reported. Our latest quotation from Hongkong is 112 per cent. premium, with sellers. Shipping.—China Mutual S. N. Preference shares were placed at 11s. 50. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares are wanted at \$25½. Douglas Steamship shares were sold at \$50. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. are wanted at 11s. 114, and there are buyers of Boyd & Co. shares at 11s. 147½. There are buyers of Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares at 81 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' shares are offering at \$60, North-Chinas changed hands at 11s. 200, and Yangtszes at \$78. Cantons are wanted at \$145, cum dividend of \$5, payable on the 2nd proximo. It is rumoured that the Commercial Union has offered to buy out the Straits Insurance Co., and the shares of the latter are therefore in demand. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong have been sold at \$171.70 and Chinas at \$75. There is no change in Wharf or Cargo Boat shares. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in Hall & Holtz shares at \$14, Shanghai Land Investment shares at 11s. 84½, and Major Brothers' shares at 11s. 25. Loans.—Shanghai Land In-

vestment 6 per cent. Debentures are sold at par, plus the accrued interest as usual. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures are wanted at 11s. 102.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd January. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.52
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.57
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.03
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	187
Bank, on demand	187½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	187
Bank, on demand	187½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 % dis.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	14 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % dis.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	19.80
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	50.50

TONNAGE.
HONGKONG, 2nd January.—Freights during the past fortnight have quieted down somewhat and close weaker all round.

Ready steamers to load at Saigon are not wanted at present except at a considerable advance. For loading after the Chinese New Year (26th instant), however, 17 cents is offered.

From Bangkok to Hongkong the nominal rate is 17½ cents outside and 22½ cents inside the bar, the regular steamers being quite sufficient to satisfy all demands for the present.

Japan coal freights are quiet to this at \$2.75; to Singapore \$3.75 has been paid, but \$3.50 is the highest that can be obtained at the moment.

In other directions there is no enquiry.

A medium-sized steamer is wanted to load here for New York at about 10s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

The British barque *Stanfield*, 436 tons register, has been sold for \$7,500.

There are four vessels disengaged in port, registering 4,375 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Altair—British barque, 400 tons, Amoy to Singapore, thence to Fookchow or Shanghai, \$5,000 in full.

Georgietta—American barque, 653 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$1,400 in full.

Strathesk—British steamer, 1,454 tons, Hongkong to Kobe and Yokohama, \$1,000 in full.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Krim—Norwegian steamer, 1,194 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (8 trips), 18 cents per picul.

Foyle—British steamer, 1,331 tons, 3 ports, N.C. Java to Hongkong.

Fokien—British steamer, 509 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3 per ton.

Ask—German steamer, 553 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$4,500 per month.

Peik—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, monthly, 5/6 months, \$4,500 per month.

Swatow—German steamer, 724 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$4,500 per month.

Presto—German steamer, 656 tons, monthly, 6 months (re-charter), \$4,500 per month.

Decima—German steamer, 1,131 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,950 per month.

Donar—German steamer, 1,201 tons, monthly, 8¼ months, \$6,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.— <i>Palinurus</i> (str.), <i>Glenfuin</i> (str.), <i>Formosa</i> (str.).
For MARSEILLES.— <i>Salazie</i> (str.).
For BREMEN.— <i>Gera</i> (str.).
For VANCOUVER.— <i>Empress of China</i> (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.— <i>Oceanic</i> (str.), <i>City of Rio</i> (str.), <i>Sierra Miranda</i> .
For NEW YORK.— <i>Angerton</i> (str.), <i>William J. Rotch</i> , <i>Wandering Jew</i> , <i>Lucy A. Nickells</i> , <i>Tam O'Shanter</i> , <i>Berlin</i> .
For AUSTRALIA.— <i>Changsha</i> (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

December—
29, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
29, Wycliffe, British str., from Shanghai.

29, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
20, Mich. Jebson, German str., from Karatsu.
29, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
29, Taiyuen, British str., from Sydney.
29, Celebes, Dutch str., from Probolinga.
29, Oopack, British str., from Liverpool.
30, Orestes, British str., from Liverpool.
30, Straits of Dover, Brit. str., from Moji.
30, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
30, Gibraltar, British cruiser, from Singapore.
30, Lawang, German str., from Hamburg.
30, Murex, British str., from Batoum.
30, Taichow, British str., from Batoum.
30, Namjong, British str., from Penang.
30, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
30, Fooksang, British str., from Shanghai.
30, Riversdale, British str., from Moji.
30, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
30, Swatow, German str., from Haiphong.
30, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
31, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Canton.
31, Verona, British str., from Japan.
31, Java, British str., from London.
31, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
31, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
31, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
31, Ming Yi, German str., from Chinkiang.
31, Peninsular, British str., from Shanghai.
31, Caloma, Amr. bark, from Portland.
31, Lienshing, British str., from Chinkiang.
31, Yiksang, British str., from Chinkiang.

January—

1, Suttley, British str., from London.
1, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
1, Talle, German str., from Penang.
1, Pekin, British str., from London.
1, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
1, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.
1, Guy Mannering, Brit. str., from Chinkiang.
1, Woosung, British str., from Chinkiang.
1, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
2, Oceanic, British str., from S. Francisco.
2, Glenartney, British str., from Yokohama.
2, Arroyo, British str., from Singapore.
2, Monmouthshire, British str., from London.
2, Strathaven, British str., from Barry Dock.
2, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
2, Emp. of China, British str., from Vancouver.
2, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

DEPARTURES.

28, Marie Jebson, German str., for Moji.
28, Deuteros, German str., for Bangkok.
28, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
28, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
28, Phra J. Kiao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
28, Changsha, British str., for Canton.
28, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
28, Peik, Norw. str., for Canton.
29, China, German str., for Saigon.
29, Peru, American str., for San Francisco.
29, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
29, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
29, Breconshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.
29, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
30, Wycliffe, British str., for Singapore.
30, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.
30, Ethiopie, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
30, Pallas, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
30, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
30, Hailoeng, British str., for Swatow.
30, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
30, Menmuir, Brit. str., for Port Darwin, &c.
30, Strathesk, British str., for Kobe.
30, Mongkut, British str., for Swatow.
30, Murex, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Canton, British str., for Canton.
31, Ardgay, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.

January—

1, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
1, Namjong, British str., for Amoy.
1, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
1, Orestes, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Doris, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Pekin, British str., for Amoy.
1, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
1, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
1, Mingyi, German str., for Canton.
2, Guy Mannering, British str., for Canton.
2, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
2, Jacob Diederichsen, German str., for Iloilo.
2, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Lienshing, British str., for Canton.
2, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
2, Strathaven, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Suttley, British str., for Shanghai.